461. a. 22.
3
414. f. 11
3
2031. c
3

GENERAL VIEW

OF THE

NATURAL CIRCUMSTANCES

OF THOSE ISLES, ADJACENT TO THE NORTH-WEST COAST OF SCOTLAND, WHICH ARE DISTINGUISHED BY THE COMMON NAME OF

HEBUDÆ OR HEBRIDES:—

OF

THE VARIOUS MEANS

WHICH HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED TO CULTIVATE AND IMPROVE THEM:—

AND OF

SOME OTHER MEANS,

WHICH ARE HUMBLY PROPOSED, AS LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR FARTHER IMPROVEMENT.

DRAWN UP FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

K. Academien &c

BY ROBERT HERON.

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED BY JOHN PATERSON.

M DCC XCIV.

Jos: Banks

Diviſion and Arrangement of the parts of the following Essay.

Page.

INTRODUCTION. - - - - - 1

SECTION I. Abſtract of the common Hiſtory of all the HEBUDÆ. - - 3

SECTION II. Account of theſe Iſles, one by one; explaining the peculiar circumſtances of each; and, in the order, advancing from north to ſouth. - 10

SECTION III. Claſſification of the facts in the preceding Sections. - - 60

SECTION IV. Farther improvements humbly ſuggeſted. - - - 82

SECTION V. On the connection between the continued improvement of the HEBUDÆ, and the progreſſive Proſperity of *Great Britain*. - - 97

INTRODUCTION.

IF the Arts be all more or leſs valuable, as they are more or leſs neceſſary to the ſupport of human life; Agriculture is undeniably the firſt and moſt important of them all. The ſtate of Agriculture alone in any country, might perhaps be ſafely aſſumed as the meaſure of the civil improvement of its inhabitants. Where men have not yet begun to till the ground; they are ſtill ſavage or barbarous. Where they have forſaken huſbandry for trade and the arts of luxury; they are declining into a ſecond and more unhappy barbariſm.

The ardour and aſſiduity with which Agricultute is not only practiſed among us as an Art, but alſo ſtudied as a Science, are unequivocal proofs, that the moral and political character of the Britiſh Nation, is ſtill one of the moſt illuſtrious which the world has beheld.

Intelligent friends to their country, and to virtuous induſtry, conſider the inſtitution of a Board of Agriculture, as an act peculiarly honourable to the preſent Parliament. Its enquiries and other exertions, if conducted with energy ſufficiently active, and with views ſufficiently enlarged, muſt of neceſſity, contribute more eſſentially to improve and eſtabliſh the public and private happineſs of the nation, than all the projects of clamorous, political Reformers. SWIFT did not greatly err, when he pronounced him who ſhould teach how to produce two blades of graſs, where only one had grown before, to be the firſt among the benefactors of mankind.

No art or ſcience ſtands inſulated and abſolutely alone. Thoſe relations which are the objects of the Science of Agriculture, are inſeparably intermixed with others referring to all the various diviſions of human knowledge. The *chemiſt* is intereſted, in the examination of the qualities of ſoils and manures; the *natural philoſopher*, in the contrivance and the uſe of all thoſe inſtruments by which force is applied, upon

the principles of *hydroſtatics* or *mechanics*, to the operations of huſbandry; *natural hiſtory* in all its branches, is uſeful to direct the œconomy of the farm, and receives, in its turn, new illuſtration from it; the true *elements of political œconomy*, are to be fought, as well in the train of the farmer's tranſactions, as in thoſe of the manufacturer, and the merchant: Agriculture is the nurſing mother of all the *mechanic arts*, and they are all her handmaids: among the *fine arts*, *architecture* and *gardening* are in particular connected with Agriculture.—Of ſuch extenſive importance are agricultural enquiries to the improvement of Science and Art.

The peculiar circumſtances of the HEBUDÆ, and the complicated cauſes upon which the perfection or imperfection of their agriculture muſt ever depend, oblige me to introduce, in the following eſſay, a greater variety of collateral information, than would be requiſite in an account of the huſbandry of an inland county. Agriculture will be my firſt object, not the only one.

SECTION

SECTION I.

ABSTRACT OF THE COMMON HISTORY OF ALL THE HEBUDÆ.

THE HEBUDÆ are a ſeries of more than fifty iſles, various in extent and configuration, and irregularly ſcattered along the north-weſt coaſt of Scotland, between the fifty-fifth and the fifty-ninth degrees of northern latitude, the ſixth and the eighth degrees of weſtern longitude.

The ancient hiſtory of theſe iſles is obſcure, as that of Scandinavia, of Scotland, of Ireland. They might be deſcried in the commercial adventures of the Phœnicians and the Greeks. They were viewed by the Romans, in the circumnavigation of Agricola's fleet round the Britiſh coaſts. Their firſt inhabitants, known to hiſtory, were Celts, of the ſame race as the poſſeſſors of the contiguous ſhores of Scotland and Ireland.

Thoſe firſt poſſeſſors of the Hebudæ were not numerous. They were thinly diſperſed among the iſles. In one was perhaps a ſingle family; in another, two or three; in a third, a tribe, formidable by ſtrength and numbers to their feeble neighbours: many iſles probably were entirely uninhabited. By the information of ancient records, and, even more certainly, by the appearance of thoſe trunks of trees which are occaſionally dug up from deep beds in the moraſſes; we learn, that, in the remote age, in which they began to be firſt occupied by mankind, ſome of theſe iſles muſt have been, if not wholly, at leaſt partially covered with wood. Deer, and ſome other wild animals, frequented the hills and thickets. Fiſhes were abundant on the ſhores. But, the people were without ingenuity or induſtry; and their condition was miſerable. Caves in the rocks, or huts of rude and inconvenient ſtructure, were their only dwellings. Averſe to fiſhing, they truſted chiefly to the chace for ſubſiſtence. To return unſucceſsful from hunting, was often to return to certain death by famine. But, they had contrived to frame ſmall open boats. Hunger, and

the want of adequate employment, made them fierce and reſtleſs. They roamed about from iſle to iſle; contended with one another for food, like ravenous beaſts of prey; and, as they became acquainted with people more induſtrious and more opulent, ſought to acquire by rapine thoſe accommodations of life, which their local circumſtances ſeemed to deny them. But, uncivilized humanity is unequal to a condition ſo forlorn and hazardous. The population of theſe iſles received from time to time, various ſupplies of unfortunate wanderers from happier ſituations, yet could not maintain itſelf; but was continually waſted with a conſumption not leſs rapid or leſs fatal, than that which luxury and vice produce in the great towns of modern Europe.

In the mean time, civilization began to dawn on South Britain, and induſtry to be there excited. Breeds of tame animals were cultivated. Arts were introduced by the commercial nations from the ſhores and iſles of the Mediterranean, who came to enrich themſelves by exporting the natural productions of Britain. New arts, new plants and grains, new domeſtic animals were in like manner, received from Germany, Gaul, and Spain. The Romans entered the iſland; extended their conqueſts to the Grampian mountains, and the Vergivian ſea; and Britain was received within the ſphere of the cilivized world. Chriſtianity followed the career of the Roman arms. The ſyſtem of life and manners was thus almoſt wholly changed.

Among ſavage and barbarian tribes, the progreſs of improvements is indeed ſlow. But once originated, they neceſſarily advance and diffuſe themſelves. Horſes, oxen, ſheep, came to conſtitute the wealth of the Caledonians, as of the South Britons. They were ſoon coveted by the Hebudians, and ſome of them ſoon propagated in the Hebudæ. Chriſtianity and agriculture were introduced together into theſe iſles, by Columba and his diſciples. As the iſlanders were converted from Paganiſm, the mitigation thus produced upon their fierce ſpirits, the example of their venerable inſtructors, the new arts and accommodations that accompanied the progreſs of this new religion, operated all together, to turn them, for the firſt time, from irregular and ill-directed toils, and from the inceſſant renewal of ſavage warfare, to peace-

ful

ful induſtry, and to the cultivation of the milder arts. But, the natural circumſtances of theſe Iſles, could not admit any extraordinary civilization of their inhabitants, while all around were equally barbarous.—It is worthy to be here remarked, that the obſervances of that ſuperſtition which was engrafted upon genuine Chriſtianity, firſt urged theſe iſlanders to avail themſelves familiarly of the abundant means of ſubſiſtence provided for them, in the immenſe diverſity of fiſhes on their ſhores.

Had the progreſs of induſtry and civility been yet more rapid in theſe iſles, and more powerful in its effects, it muſt, nevertheleſs, have been deſtroyed by the ravages and conqueſts of the Pagans of Scandinavia, in the eighth and ninth centuries. Their piracies and invaſions, in this period,—of Ireland, of Scotland, of England, of the coaſt of France, are ſufficiently famous in the hiſtory of modern Europe. The whole iſlands on the northern and weſtern coaſts of Scotland, were among the earlieſt of their piratical conqueſts. *Man*, with the Hebudæ, were erected into a ſeparate kingdom; the ſovereign of which was underſtood to be a feudatory dependent, ſometimes on the king of Norway, and ſometimes on the Daniſh monarch of Dublin. In this conqueſt, the religious eſtabliſhments in the Hebudæ, were plundered and ruined by the Pagan Norſe-men. Induſtry and naſcent civility were, at the ſame time, checked in their firſt ſpring; ravage and deſolation were ſpread wide through every iſle. The conquerors built thoſe round forts, of which many ruinous remains are yet ſeen in the Hebudæ; made theſe iſles places of retreat from their piratical expeditions; ſtored here their booty; here revelled in the occaſional enjoyment of plenty purchaſed with their blood; and muſtered here their fleets, when the ſeaſon for adventure returned. By them were almoſt all thoſe conveniencies of life made known in the Hebudæ, which were already common on the coaſts which they from time to time, alarmed and plundered. They were, by degrees, converted to Chriſtianity, and the religious eſtabliſhments reſtored.

But, religion is only one among a number of cauſes, to whoſe influence the human character is ſubject. The fierce ſpirit of theſe people, was not greatly ſoftened by their converſion. Civil union and ſubordination were extremely imperfect a-

mong them. Whenever they were not employed abroad, inteſtine broils prevailed; their ſwords were turned upon their own bowels; and every man's hand againſt his neighbour. The iſle of Man was, by theſe means, ſoon divided from the Hebudæ. Each of the larger of theſe iſles was often held in a ſort of ſeparate dominion, by a particular lord. The Scots ſometimes, at times the Danes of Ireland, but, moſt frequently the Norwegians attacked the iſlanders, and claimed their homage. At length, after a variety of ſtruggles, the ſovereignty of the Hebudæ was, in the end of the thirteenth century, finally relinquiſhed by the Norwegians and Danes; and the king of the Scots became, at leaſt nominally, ſupreme lord of the Iſles, (whilſt they were in fact poſſeſſed by the powerful tribe of Macdonald.)

But, the policy of the government of the Hebudæ was not improved, nor was their population augmented, immediately upon their union to the kingdom of Scotland. The feudal laws, modified by the cuſtoms of clanſhip, were ill calculated to promote improvements. Horſes were however, introduced. Oxen and goats, theſe people had before poſſeſſed. A few ſheep were at length added to their tame animals. Some very ſcanty quantities of bread-corn again began to be, here and there raiſed. Of garden-vegetables, we do not now know, that any, unleſs perhaps peaſe and beans, were cultivated, even on the continent of Scotland. Their cattle afforded them abundance of milk and butter. They learned, by degrees to manufacture from the wool of their ſheep, ſome articles of clothing more comfortable than the undreſſed and ſhaggy ſkins which they had been once accuſtomed to wear. They were now a mingled race of Scots and Norwegians. Their manners were turbulent and prædatory. Their ferocity ſtill reſiſted almoſt every endeavour of the Scottiſh monarchs, to reduce them to ſomething like the order of civilization.

In the mean time, the arts of firſt neceſſity had made ſome progreſs in Scotland. Free burghs were erected. And trade began to eſtabliſh itſelf. The dealer in cattle, the maltſter, the clothier, the ſkinner, and the fiſherman were the firſt who acquired opulence in this country, by commercial tranſactions, and by the practice of mechanic arts. The natural productions of a ruder and a more thinly inhabited country always paſs, by a neceſſary progreſs, into the neareſt more populous, and more cultivated

country.

country. Horſes, black cattle, ſheep, perhaps woollen ſtuffs, were, even at that period, exported out of Scotland, into England; from the more remote and wilder diſtricts of Scotland, into the ſouthern, and eaſtern diſtricts, which were, for the greater part, the moſt populous, and the beſt cultivated; from the Hebudæ, to the contiguous diſtricts on the main-land. Money and articles of artificial manufacture, were received in return. Thus were the manners of the Hebudians ſomewhat ſoftened, their notions of life enlarged, and their induſtry ſlightly excited.—But, the obſervances of the Roman Catholic religion, have been remarked to be peculiarly favourable to the fiſheries. It became very early neceſſary to provide ſtores of ſalted fiſh, againſt Lent. The ſhores of Scotland, eaſtern, northern, and weſtern, were frequented by immenſe ſhoals of fiſhes of a great variety of ſpecies. The fiſhing on their coaſts became in the fourteenth, the fifteenth, and the ſixteenth centuries, the great ſource of wealth to the induſtrious Scots. Conſiderable towns aroſe, which were ſupported and enriched chiefly by the fiſhing. Fiſhes taken on the Scottiſh coaſts, and cured in Scotland, were exported to England, to Flanders, to France, to Spain, to Italy. The Hebudæ, lying in the very middle of the richeſt ſcene of the fiſhery, were neceſſarily benefited by it, in no inconſiderable degree. Their inhabitants, although ferocious and inhoſpitable, had unavoidable intercourſe with the fiſhers. They became, ſome of them, trading fiſhermen, themſelves. The commodities of moſt of the trading and manufacturing countries in Europe were conveyed, in ſmaller or larger quantities, to the Hebudæ. The temper of theſe people was ſenſibly mitigated, and their ſyſtem of life improved.

The importance of theſe Iſles was thus increaſed in the eyes of all Scotland. The two laſt of the ſix Jameſes who reigned in Scotland only, were peculiarly anxious to promote their improvement. The circumnavigation of James the fifth, round the Hebudæ, is well known; James the ſixth, whoſe conſideration for the intereſts of trade and manufactures, was diſtinguiſhed among other things, by the erection of a number of new burghs on the eaſt coaſt of Fife, had conceived very extenſive, and not injudicious projects for the improvement of the Hebudæ. The Reformation had likewiſe given a powerful impulſe, which rouſed almoſt all the people of

Scotland to energetic exertion, and ſeemed to promiſe to produce every where effects the moſt beneficial, on their moral character, and on their civil and political condition.

But, the acceſſion of James to the throne of England, withdrew his cares from the diſtant extremities of his Scottiſh dominions. The infant ſpirit of improvement and ingenious induſtry, was ſoon ſuffered to periſh among the Scots. The Dutch became our competitors in the fiſheries; by degrees engroſſed thoſe markets which the Scots had once ſupplied; and thus ſnatched from the hands of our anceſtors, the natural riches of their own ſeas. The fiſhing towns on our coaſts declined. The barbariſm, the indolence, the poverty, the rapacious ferocity of the Hebudians were confirmed. In the civil wars which followed, all Scotland was ravaged, with all its dependencies. Nor was it, till after the reſtoration of order and tranquillity, that the Scots became ſenſible, that the invading Engliſh had taught them ſome beneficial arts, and had impoſed ſome reſtraints upon their turbulence, which were in time to compenſate the evils which their invaſion had inflicted. The uſe of pot-herbs, the art of cultivating them, the tanning of leather, and the making of ſhoes were firſt introduced into Inverneſs-ſhire by the ſoldiers of Cromwell and Monk. From Inverneſs-ſhire, and other ſtations of the Engliſh ſoldiers, thoſe beneficial arts ſlowly found their way into the Hebudæ. The ſubſequent reigns of Charles the Second, and of James the Seventh, waſted Scotland and its dependencies by one continued conteſt between Preſbyterianiſm and Epiſcopacy, and by the ſeverities exerciſed by jealous monarchy, upon a wild enthuſiaſtic licentiouſneſs, which ſtruggled even againſt the neceſſary reſtraints of order. In this period, the barbariſm and ferocity of the Highlanders and Iſlanders ſeem to have been rather exaſperated and renewed, than mitigated and civilized. What was peculiarly unfortunate for the iſlanders,—they had, ever ſince the Reformation, been induſtriouſly detached from their ancient Popiſh teachers; yet, Preſbyterian miniſters and ſchoolmaſters had not been ſent among them with ſufficient care. The inhabitants of the ſouth-weſt Highlands and the adjacent iſles, however, were for the greater part adherents to the Houſe of Argyle; and by

conſequence,

conſequence, during the reigns above-mentioned, warm and active partizans of the Preſbyterian cauſe.

The Revolution reſtored to Scotland a degree of comparative tranquillity. Its effects were felt in the Hebudæ. Theſe iſlanders were now left for a time, to feed their horſes, oxen, and ſheep; to hunt the roes on their hills, and to rob the bird-neſts on their cliffs; to drag the fiſhes that ſwarmed on their ſhores; to dig up here and there a few feet of ground, to receive their ſcanty ſowings; and to gather in their blaſted crops,—in peace, interrupted only by domeſtic feuds. But, the fiſheries were engroſſed by the Dutch. The Highlanders and Iſlanders ſpoke a peculiar language, by which the influx of inſtruction from the Lowlanders, was rendered almoſt impoſſible. They had arms in their hands, and were proud of their ancient martial independence. Public roads were not yet opened through Scotland; poſts and packet-boats were not yet eſtabliſhed in ſufficient numbers; mercantile travellers could not with ſafety adventure among a people, who were, as yet, even proverbially thieviſh and rapacious. The moſt patriotic alſo of the Scots, infected with the predominant ſpirit of the age, turned their cares from the cultivation of internal advantages, to the eſtabliſhment of a diſtant ſettlement, in which their endeavours were maliciouſly thwarted, and their views finally diſappointed.

The acceſſion of a new family to the Britiſh throne, and a rebellion of the Highland Clans ſoon enſued. This rebellion was quaſhed. It drew the attention of Government, more than it had been for a long while turned, upon that quarter of the kingdom, in which the rebellion had ariſen. Some awful examples of ſevere public juſtice were exhibited. Soothing applications were employed. Garriſons were eſtabliſhed to check. Highways were formed, for ready avenues of communication. Something more of order, and ſomething more of civility, was introduced into the Highlands, and by conſequence, into the contiguous Hebudian iſles. A new ray of light was directed upon theſe extremities of the empire; and a new excitement applied to their yet liſtleſs induſtry. The intercourſe between the remoteſt Highlands and the Lowlands was now gradually facilitated and increaſed. The Highlands and the Weſtern Iſles began to take, in an eminent degree, the cha-

racter of a breeding country for the human ſpecies; affording ſupplies to recruit the waſted population of the great towns, and the more cultivated diſtricts of Scotland, and even of England. But the fiſheries were ſtill neglected, or proſecuted only by foreigners, and proved little beneficial to the Hebudians, or the Scots in general.

Yet another rebellion enſued. And the readineſs, with which too many of the Highlanders and Iſlanders engaged in it, ſhewed their condition and manners to be in no very forward ſtate of improvement. It was defeated. The diſtricts, in which it had been firſt kindled, were ravaged by the victors, with cruel and rapacious barbarity. New meaſures were immediately employed to civilize the Highlanders, to ſubject their country to the permanent authority of Government, and to render it every where more eaſily and ſafely acceſſible. They were deprived of the privilege of wearing arms: The chiefs were diveſted of their hereditary juriſdictions. New highways were conducted among the *Straths* and mountains. The uſe of the ancient Highland dreſs—a compound of the Roman dreſs with that of the old Anglo-Saxons—was aboliſhed. Sunk in deſpondency, in conſequence of the unfortunate iſſue of this ſecond rebellion, the Highlanders yielded to the impreſſion; and an aſtoniſhing change was thus wrought upon their character.

Political œconomy was now cultivated in Britain, with wiſer intelligence than formerly. The true principles of trade, of manufactures, of huſbandry, were daily better underſtood. The Commiſſioners upon the Forfeited Eſtates, and the Truſtees for Fiſheries, Manufactures, and Improvements, had duties intruſted to them, which were directed almoſt excluſively, to the amelioration of the national œconomy. They were not idle. Many of their views were enlightened; many of their ſchemes judicious; amidſt much diſappointment, there was ſtill much accompliſhed. Improvements, attempted on the forfeited eſtates, were among the moſt ſucceſsful of their labours; ſtill encouraging induſtry, and forcing cultivation on the domains of barrenneſs. Every ſuch improvement, even on the lower confines of the Highlands, ſpread by ſlow undulation over the whole Highlands and Iſles. The cares of the "Society for propagating Chriſtian knowledge" had, at the ſame time, be-

neficial

neficial effects upon the ſtate of the Hebudæ. The Hebudians were, by theſe, enlightened with a ſpecies of knowledge highly favourable to induſtry, and to the comfort of life; the intercourſe with the Lowlands was rendered more familiar and eaſy; their numbers were counted, and their importance, as a part of the nation, was made better known. Agricultural improvements, too, had lately begun to be vigorouſly proſecuted in Scotland. Already had they aſtoniſhingly fertilized and enriched ſeveral of the ſouthern counties. The fame of this had, at laſt, reached even to the Hebudæ. The Hebudians began to turn themſelves, with new alacrity and diligence, to the raiſing of grain. Of that moſt uſeful of vegetables, the potatoe-plant, they were already poſſeſſed. They were ſoon encouraged alſo to avail themſelves more induſtriouſly of their natural advantages for the fiſhery. They were taught to burn into kelp the ſea-weeds on their ſhores. As the opulence and population of Scotland in general, and of England were augmented, the horſes, and eſpecially the black cattle of the Hebudæ found a better market. The Hebudians learned alſo to prefer ſheep, as in certain circumſtances, a ſpecies of *farm-ſtock* better ſuited to their climate, and to the face of their country.

Emigrations to America, and levies of ſoldiers might impair the population of theſe iſles, immediately before the laſt war, and during its continuance. But, it will appear that they have gained much ſince its cloſe. The views of the proprietors of the lands have become more liberal and enlarged. Societies and individuals have examined, with increaſing care, the ſtate of theſe iſles, and have drawn the attention of the public, more completely than ever, upon the national advantages which may be derived from their farther cultivation. Merchants, manufacturers, and farmers, from the more improved diſtricts of Britain, have gone to ſettle in the Highlands, and in theſe Iſles; and the native inhabitants, indignant at ſeeing ſtrangers enrich themſelves, where *they* could find only want and wretchedneſs, have been rouſed to emulate their induſtry, and have not contended in vain.—(Vitæ Sanctorum Scotiæ, a J. Pinkerton editæ; Buchanani Hiſtoria Scotiæ; Forduni Scotichronicon, paſſim; Bedæ Hiſt. Eccleſiaſtica, lib. 1. &c. Martin's Weſtern Iſles; Campbell's Political Survey; Collection of the Acts of the Scottiſh Parliaments; Swinton's Dictionary of the Statutes, &c.)

SECTION II.

ACCOUNT OF THE HEBUDIAN ISLES, ONE BY ONE, EXPLAINING THE PECULIAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH,—AND IN THEIR ORDER, ADVANCING FROM NORTH TO SOUTH.

I. LEWIS.

1. *Extent, and Natural State of the Country.*

LEWIS, the moſt northern of theſe iſles, is comprehended within the ſhire of Roſs. Its form is triangular; the length of the ſides being, from the point of Neſs to Maliſta, forty miles,—from Maliſta to Wallums, twenty one miles,—from Wallums again to the point of Neſs, thirty ſix miles.

The aſpect of the country, in this iſland, is, in the interior parts, boggy and mountainous; upon the ſhore, flat, interſected by various arms of the ſea; and deſtitute of wood,—except only a few birches and hazels, with heath and ſome kindred ſhrubs. The ſoil is, in the interior country, a black peat-earth, or a light gravel;—on the ſhore, a ſand not unſuſceptible of culture and fertilization. The peat-earth has probably been formed, in a good meaſure, by the decay of thoſe woods, with which this iſland is ſaid to have been once extenſively covered. Here and there are conſiderable ſtrata of red clay, of which earthen veſſels are made. Springs, lakes, and rivulets, ſcattered through the iſland, furniſh, in all parts, abundance of freſh water. As to the climate; the Spring is commonly cold and backward; Summer, warm; Autumn, accompanied with profuſe rains; Winter, without long and ſevere froſts, or very weighty falls of ſnow, but with conſtant winds, and theſe ſtormy and ſharply cold.——Among its wild animals, this iſle ſtill has deer or roes. Prodigious numbers of wild fowls, of many different ſpecies, frequent the ſhores, the lakes, and the cliffs

cliffs of the mountains; among others, the eider gooſe, of which the down is ſo precious. Immenſe ſhoals of fiſhes, of an innumerable diverſity of ſpecies, haunt the coaſts; herrings, cod, ling, haddocks, whitings, ſkate, turbot, mackerel, &c.

2. *Its Inhabitants, and Cultivation.*——The inhabitants of this iſland, under theſe natural circumſtances, are, in number, about four thouſand eight hundred, excluſive of children under eight years of age. They are ſcattered, for the moſt part, in ſingle families, or cluſters of two or three families, around the coaſt, or through the interior parts of the iſland. Some large tracts are without inhabitants; while, upon others, the population is more cloſely aſſembled together. On the eaſt ſide of the iſle, is the town or village of Stornoway, containing ſome hundreds of inhabitants; accommodated with a cuſtom-houſe, and a poſt-office; carrying on a ſmall trade in fiſhes, kelp, feathers, and ſkins. Theſe people manufacture for their own domeſtic uſe, linen and woollen cloths, ſhoes, and ſtockings. They burn the ſea weeds on their ſhores into kelp. They take the fiſhes in the ſurrounding ſeas, for exportation, no leſs than for their ordinary food. For exportation, too, much more than for immediate uſe at home, they collect the down and feathers of their fowls, with the ſkins of their quadrupeds, tame and wild. Since knowledge is connected with aſſiduous and well-directed induſtry, even more intimately than is generally imagined, it may not be impertinent to add here, that the inhabitants of Lewis are inſtructed by the pariſh miniſters, catechiſts, and ſchoolmaſters, numerous in a reaſonable proportion to the number of the inhabitants, although not in proportion to the extent of the iſland.

But the chief property of theſe Iſlanders conſiſts in *farm-ſtock*, and in the produce of the lands. Sheep, goats, hogs, black cattle, horſes, of ſmall breeds, yet valuable, —the horſes for ſtrength and activity,—the hogs for the uncommon delicacy and fine flavour of their pork and bacon,—the black cattle at once for ſhape and for the excellence of the beef,—the ſheep for their richly flavoured mutton: Theſe are the tame animals with which the farms of Lewis are ſtocked. The annual exports of all theſe ſpecies of animal ſtock are conſiderable. With the kelp, of which about two hundred tons are annually burnt, they contribute greatly towards the payment of the landlord's rents.

rents. Theſe have, within no very long period of time, been increaſed, without any oppreſſion of the tenantry, from one thouſand to two thouſand five hundred pounds a-year.

Of the lands, but a ſmall proportion has yet been brought under culture. The farms are large. Agriculture is regarded but as a ſecondary object. The bogs or moraſſes have not yet been drained; nor the moors cleared of their heath. The *Caſchrom*, and *Caſdireach*, two ſpades each of a peculiar form; the *Riſtle*, or Sickle plough, (this is nearly of the figure which Mr Holdiſworth, in his admirable notes on Virgil's Georgics, aſcribes to the old Roman plough;) the old Scottiſh plough, and the harrow, are the inſtruments employed to prepare the ground for receiving the ſeed. The plough is drawn by horſes. Sea weeds cut with the ſickle, or ſuch as are caſt by the waves upon the beach, afford an excellent manure. The lateneſs and coldneſs of the ſpring gives a late ſeed-time. The rains alſo of autumn render the harveſt late and difficult. Finding manure on the ſea ſhore, and wanting carts and roads for its conveyance through the interior country, theſe people cultivate an indifferent ſoil, and the ſteep declivities of rocks upon the coaſt, to the neglect of tracts of ground more worthy of cultivation, but more remote from manure. Potatoes are planted commonly, not in rows, but in broad beds, with deep furrows. Here, as every where elſe, that manuring, watering, pulverization, accumulation of ſoil, removal of rocks, and clearing away of the roots and ſeeds of noxious plants, which neceſſarily take place in the culture of potatoes, are found to be the moſt ſucceſsful preparatives for rich crops of grain. One Summer-taſk which interferes moſt unfavourably with the labours of Agriculture, is the cutting, with the drying, and the carrying of peats. When hay Harveſt arrives, the hay is commonly cut down with left-hand ſickles; nor is the proceſs of drying it, ſuch as either to require the leaſt labour poſſible, or not to wither the graſs more than is neceſſary. Draught-carriages being hardly known; hay and corn are alike conveyed from the field, in truſſes, on the backs of the horſes, and in burthens, by the men and women. The flail, conſiſting of a poliſhed *hand-ſtaff*, and a *ſupple*, thicker, ſhorter, and often knotty,—bound together with a thong,—is the inſtrument for threſhing. The ſtraw of the oats, is winter-fodder for the cattle. That of the barley, having, in the

reaping,

reaping, been pulled up by the roots, not cut down, is reſerved for thatching. *Querns* or hand-mills are yet in uſe for grinding meal. Dried ſkins are bored into ſieves for ſifting it. Such is the Agriculture of the Iſle of Lewis. But, it muſt be added, that the increaſing trade and population of the town of Stornoway, with the liberal and judicious views of improvement which are purſued by Mr Humberſtone-Mackenzie of Seaforth, the proprietor of the Iſland, if they have not the effect of turning the induſtry of the men of Lewis too excluſively into the directions of *fiſhing*, and *making of kelp*, are likely to rouſe agricultural induſtry by new and more powerful ſtimuli, to furniſh it with leſs aukward inſtruments, to enlighten all its proceſſes, and to give a new animation to all its labours.—(See Campbell's Political Survey, vol. 1. 4to, from page 616, to 625. Report made to the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, by a miſſion of miniſters who viſited this and the other Hebudæ, in 1765. Knox's Tour, p. 190, &c.)

II. HARRIS.

1. *Extent, and Natural Circumſtances.*

THE Iſle of Harris, having on its eaſt ſide, a channel by which it is ſeparated from Sky, on the weſt the Atlantic Ocean, and on the ſouth, a narrower ſound, dividing it from North Uiſt, is on the north, connected with Lewis, by a narrow iſthmus, which, at low water, is left entirely dry, and even by the flowing tide but partially covered. This Iſle has been eſtimated to be from twenty-two to thirty miles in length, from five to fifteen in breadth. With thoſe adjacent Iſlets which are alſo comprehended in the pariſh of Harris, it has been more accurately reckoned at forty eight miles in length, and twenty four miles in its greateſt breadth.

The face of the country is, in this Iſle, for the greater part, rocky and mountainous; the hills ſubſiding, only on the weſt ſide, into a narrow plain, which extends along the ſhore, and being on that ſide alſo green up to the ſummits; while, on the eaſt coaſt, their angles leave here and there a few ſpots for cultivation; and in the northern diſtrict, contiguous to the iſthmus of Tarbert, and denominated the Foreſt,

although deſtitute of wood, they preſent a wild aſſemblage of conical mounts, among which men have never yet attempted to fix their habitations. The whole coaſt is indented with creeks and inlets of the ſea. On the weſt ſide there are two tracts of ſand, which are overflowed only by high tides; and which, if they could be reſcued from the invaſion of the waves, might prove very valuable for cultivation. The ſoil is thin, and gravelly upon the ſides of the hills; in other places, bog or *moſs*; and only on a proportion of the Iſle, comparatively very ſmall, a loam of a character to invite culture. Here and there, indeed, are a few ſpots of a rich black earth, which ſeems to be almoſt pure reſidue of vegetable matter, plentifully impregnated with oils. The wild quadrupeds, the fowls, and the fiſhes of Harris, are the ſame as thoſe of Lewis; ſprings, rivulets, and larger collections of water are ſufficiently numerous in Harris, as well as in Lewis. The cuddy-fiſh, not previouſly mentioned, is frequently found in the moſt extraordinary abundance, on all theſe coaſts, and is commonly the ſureſt reſource of the poor. Salmon enter the rivulets; and excellent black trouts are caught in the lakes.

2. *Inhabitants, and Cultivation.*——The population of the pariſh of Harris has increaſed rapidly within theſe laſt fourteen years; from one thouſand, eight hundred and five, to two thouſand, five hundred, and thirty ſix ſouls. But, in this enumeration are included the inhabitants of various contiguous Iſlets, appendages to Harris. The ſimpler and more neceſſary mechanic arts are practiſed in the Iſland. Kelp is the ſtaple article of its exportation. In the manufacture of kelp, the men of Harris are eminently expert. They are employed in it, chiefly, from April to September. The tackſmen of the ſhores are the proprietors of the ſea-weeds. The labourers receive, according to the varying advantages or difficulties of the ſhores,—*L.* 1 : 5. *L.* 1 : 10. *L.* 1 : 15. *L.* 2 : 10. or *L.* 3, a ton, for the collecting of the ſea-weeds, and for manufacturing them into kelp. In this labour, about three hundred and fifty hands are employed for five or ſix weeks, in uninterrupted work, every dry ſummer. To the tackſmen, proprietors of the kelp thus prepared, it has uſually brought the price of *L.* 5. or *L.* 6. a ton.

Numerous and diverſified in their ſpecies, as are the fiſhes on the coaſt, yet, it does

does not appear, that the inhabitants of Harris take any conſiderable quantities of fiſhes, except for domeſtic uſe. The late Captain Macleod of Harris made ſome encouraging attempts at the more extenſive proſecution of the fiſhery, immediately upon the coaſts of this Iſland. But the duties upon ſalt and coals have been long unfavourable to the fiſheries, and to the general improvement of all theſe Iſlands. Six ſloops, belonging to Harris, are employed in the fiſhery, and the exportation of kelp.

The whole number of black cattle in Harris, and its dependencies, are computed to be 2460; the breeding cows, 900. The breed is ſmall. As the quality of the paſtures vary, the price of a full-grown cow or ox for the market alſo varies from *L.* 1. to *L.* 2. *L.* 2 : 10. *L.* 3. or *L.* 3 : 3. Of the ſheep, which are alſo of a diminutive breed, the number may be, 11,000. Sixteen of their fleeces make but a ſtone of wool; a ewe and her lamb are ſold at Whitſunday, for 3*s* 4*d*; a ewe or wedder, at Martinmas, for 3*s*, or 3*s* 6*d*. The ſtone of wool is ſold unwaſhed, for 8*s*; waſhed, for 10*s*. It is all manufactured into lighter ſtuffs, or coarſe cloth, and conſumed at home, without exportation. The beef and mutton of thoſe ſmall animals are uncommonly delicate and well-flavoured. 250 goats are alſo fed in Harris, and its dependent Iſlets. Theſe are ſold for the ſame prices as the ſheep. The number of horſes may be about 1000; of the ſame ſmall breed with thoſe of Lewis;—for the moſt part, about ten years ago, commonly ſold for about *L.* 2. a head; but now riſen in value to *L.* 3 : 3. and the beſt even to *L.* 4. or *L.* 5. Some horſes of a larger breed have been recently imported for the draught and for the ſaddle; as alſo aſſes for producing mules. Of the black cattle, 200, an inconſiderable number, are annually exported to the main land, by the way of Sky; and, as it ſhould ſeem by their augmented price, ſome few of the ſmall horſes.

That very moderate proportion of the lands of Harris, which is conſidered by the poſſeſſors as fit for culture, is in many parts remarkably fertile. On the weſt ſhore; on the brinks of the creeks, all around the iſle, and here and there among the interior hills, are the only ſcenes of cultivation. The better half at leaſt of the cultivated ground is not tilled with the plough, but dug and dreſſed with the *lugged* and the crooked ſpades. Much of this ground is of a ſoil approaching in its character to

peat-earth. Where it is deep, a laborious, preparatory proceſs of trenching and draining, is requiſite. Sea-weeds are the ordinary manure. Theſe are borne from the beach, moſt commonly on the backs of the cultivators. The manure is then ſpread thick upon the field, in beds, with regular intervals left for furrows. The furrow is next cut with the ſpade; the turfs and clods ſpread over the manure; and the whole left in this condition, till the ſeaſon for ſowing, late in ſpring. 200 large *creels* of ſea-ware are the proportion of this manure neceſſary for the produce of a boll of barley,—or of 12 or 14 barrels of potatoes, the more common and profitable crop. The clods over the manure, are again broken with a hoe, at the time of ſowing. The barley is then ſown thin, or the potatoes are planted with a dibble. The harrowing of the ſoil over the ſeed with a hand-rake, terminates the labour.—Where the plough can be employed, the toil is leſs tedious and leſs painful. The produce of barley is in a favourable year, upon ground prepared with the ſpade, from 16 to 20 fold,—of potatoes, from 8 to 10 fold. Two ſucceſſive crops of black oats are obtained, after the barley or potatoes. On the fourth year, the land is left untilled; and it now affords excellent graſs. Beſide the ſea-weeds, abundance of ſea-ſhells might be uſed for manure, if Agriculture were more generally purſued in this Iſland. The ſtorms of autumn are extremely unfavourable to the ripening and the reaping of the crops. To eſcape them, the corn is often cut down before it can be fully ripe. The barley, here as in Lewis, is plucked up by the roots. The oat ſtraw is uſed for fodder to the cattle; that of the barley, for thatching. Every farmer has a kiln for drying his own corn. *Querns* are uſed for grinding, in the meaner families. The principal *tackſmen* have each a ſmall mill for his own uſe, but not open to every comer. The corn of every harveſt is conſumed uſually in ſeed and meal, before the enſuing June. Thoſe who cannot purchaſe imported meal muſt then, for a while, content themſelves with milk and fiſh. The commons are extenſive; incloſures few: cows, horſes, and ſheep are left to feed together promiſcuouſly.

The inhabitants, whoſe numbers have been above ſtated, whoſe induſtry thus cultivates the iſland, and whoſe ſubſiſtence and enjoyments depend on its produce,—conſiſt of ſeveral claſſes, diſtinguiſhed by gradations of rank and property. Mr Macleod

of

of Harris, the proprietor of the land of the iſland, receives, chiefly from *tackſmen*, to whom it is let out in extenſive tracts, L. 888 ſterling, of yearly rent. Beſide the farms poſſeſſed by the tackſmen, here are *ſmall tenant-farms*, poſſeſſed each by a number of petty tenants, who live together in a village; hold the farm by one common deed of tack; and have it parcelled out among them, in *penny* and *farthing* diviſions. The *tackſmen's tenants* differ from thoſe, in ſituation, only by holding from the tackſmen, inſtead of the landlord,—having no connection with one another in their tenures,—and ſeldom having formally executed leaſes. The *tackſmen's ſervants* have their wages aſſigned them, in paſture for a cow, a horſe, a breeding mare, and any number of ſheep,—a *farthing* diviſion of land for corn and potatoes, with a due proportion of ſea-ware for manure,—a *kail-yard*,—fuel,—an allowance of a peck of meal a week,—beſide a day in the week allotted for the cultivation of their own little poſſeſſions. *A young man*, unmarried, and *living in his maſter's family*, receives L. 2 of yearly wages, with four pairs of ſhoes; a *female ſervant*, in the ſame ſituation, only 6s. and 8d. with two pairs of ſhoes, for the year's ſervice. A workman, by the day, has from 8d. to 10d. There is but one maſon in the iſland, and he a ſtranger: he has 1s. and 6d. for the Summer day's work; only 1s. for the work of a Winter day. The pariſh blackſmith has a ſalary of 2 pecks of meal, or 1s. from every farthing land; and eats with his employers when called to work. The proceſſes of ſpinning, weaving, and dyeing, are very generally performed, all, by every family for themſelves. The begging poor amount to about a two and thirtieth part of the whole population. The condition of the *ſcallags* or ſervants may be deemed hard; not ſo much becauſe their labours are oppreſſive, or their wages unreaſonably ſmall; as becauſe they are too entirely excluded from the choice of variety of employments, and of ſuch a change of maſters, as ſeems neceſſary to give the labourer comfortable independence.—(See Martin's Weſtern Iſles. Campbell's Political Survey, vol. 1. p. 616, to 625. Report to the General Aſſembly, in 1766. Knox's Tour, p. 158, &c. Statiſtical Account of the Pariſh of Harris, in 1792, by the Rev. John Macleod, being numb. xxviii. of the x. vol. of the Statiſtical Account of Scotland, publiſhed by Sir John Sinclair.)

III. SCALPEY.

SCALPEY, one of the islands comprehended in the same parish with Harris, lies in the mouth of East Loch-Tarbert, the arm of the sea dividing Harris from Lewis. It is low, round, and covered with heath; broken every where by fresh water lakes, and arms of the sea; about 3 miles at its greatest length; having on its east point, a light-house, from which it has been named by mariners, *the Isle of Glass*, and near its western extremity, two of the best natural harbours in all the Hebudæ. —It is inhabited by two or three families;—from fifteen to twenty souls.—Its cultivation is inconsiderable; and differs not, in any thing worthy of being mentioned, from that of Harris.—(See Report to the General Assembly, by Messrs Hyndman, Dick, &c. Macleod's Account of Harris, &c.)

IV. TARANSEY.

TARANSEY, belonging likewise to the parish of Harris, lies 3 miles N. N. W. from the isle of Harris; is about 4 miles long; from one to two in breadth; high and rocky; and inhabited by about 140 souls.—(Report, &c. as above. Macleod's Account of Harris.)

V. SCARP.

SCARP, another insular division of the parish of Harris, lies from that isle, about half a mile N. W. consists of one lofty rock, the diameter of which, at its base, may be 3 miles; and is inhabited by fifty souls.—(Macleod's Account of Harris, &c.)

VI. BERNEREY.

VI. BERNEREY.

BERNEREY lies about 8 miles S. W. from Harris, one mile N. from North Uiſt; is about 4 miles in length, 1½ mile in breadth; beautiful and fertile; although damaged on the ſouth ſide by the driving of the ſands. Its population, reckoned thirty years ſince at 220 ſouls, has increaſed; ſo that, added to the population of Pabbey, it amounts to 494 ſouls. It is a part of the pariſh of Harris.—(Report to General Aſſembly. Macleod's Account of Harris.)

VII. PABBEY.

PABBEY, once the granary of Harris, lies 11 miles W. from Harris, a league N. W. from Bernerey. It is of a conic form; and riſes in the middle, to a conſiderable elevation. Its fertility has been greatly injured by the driving in of ſand, on its S. E. ſide; on which, to the very ſummit of the cone, nothing but ſand is now to be ſeen. Its greateſt diameter may meaſure about two miles and a half. Its population, in 1765, eſtimated at 120 ſouls, appears to have ſince increaſed. It belongs to the pariſh of Harris.—(Report to the General Aſſembly. Macleod's Account of Harris.)

VIII. CALLIGRAY.

CALLIGRAY, lying 4 miles S. W. from Harris, is about 2 miles long, 1 mile broad;—at the ſouth end, a deep uncultivated moraſs;—a ſandy ſoil, and well cultivated, at the north end. Its inhabitants are about 30 ſouls. It belongs to the pariſh of Harris.—(Report to the General Aſſembly. Macleod's account of Harris.)

IX. ENSEY.

IX. ENSEY.

ENSEY, lying only 3 miles S. W. from Harris, 1 mile N. from Calligray, from which it is divided by a narrow ſound, is about 2 miles in length, 1 in breadth; all over verdant, fertile, and well cultivated.—(Report to the General Aſſembly. Macleod's Account of Harris.)

Beſide theſe, there are various uninhabited iſles, as well in the northern, as in the ſouthern vicinity of Harris. On the north are Skeotiſvey, Iſey, the two Soeys, Fladdey, and Gaaſkeir, ſo named from the wild geeſe by which it is frequented. On the ſouth are Hermitrey, Hulmitrey, Saartrey, Voterſey, Neartey, Opſey, Vaakſey, Haey, Suurſey, Torogey, Scarvey, Lingey, Groey, Giliſey, Sagey, Stromy, Skeiley, Copey; beſide many iſlets, rocks, and holms; ſuch as Cuholme, Cuadholm, Codholm, &c. ſcattered through the ſound from Harris to North Uiſt.——Several of theſe uninhabited iſlets may meaſure a mile in length, and half a mile in breadth. The reſt are ſmaller. Some afford good Summer paſture. They are moſtly overgrown with heath. The ſea-weeds on their ſhores are annually burnt for kelp. And ſome of the ſmaller inhabited iſlands, are provided with peats for fuel, from ſome of theſe uninhabited iſlands, at a conſiderable diſtance.—(Macleod's Account of Harris.)

X. NORTH UIST.

Extent, and Natural Circumſtances.

NORTH UIST lies about 9 miles ſouth from Harris, from which it is divided by that narrow ſound, in which are ſituated moſt of the ſmaller iſles, lately enumerated. It is in length 26 miles, and in breadth, varies from 6 to 12 miles. Its weſtern

tern ſide is flat and ſandy. Rugged and rocky mountains, here and there divided by moraſſes, ſtretch along the eaſtern ſide. In the inland parts, are lakes of freſh water, abounding in fiſhes; and the ſources of various ſmall rivers, which communicate with the ſea, chiefly on the weſt ſide, and afford large quantities of ſalmons. The tide enters theſe ſtreams, and often ſo rapidly, as to render the paſſage backwards and forwards over them, not a little dangerous. The ſoil is on the hills, a thin gravel; in the moraſſes, black peat-earth; on the level tracts along the ſhores, ſandy; in but a very few ſpots, have culture or natural accidents produced that mixture of different earths with vegetable matter, which the huſbandman denominates *loam*, and which he finds to yield the moſt readily to cultivation. Heath ſpreads over the hills. On the moraſſes, grows that long graſs well known through Scotland by the common name of *bent*, unfit for paſture, but uſed for thatching, for ropes, and for ſome other ſimilar purpoſes. By the ſea-ſide, grows a ſort of natural colewort, named *morran*; and *rue*, uſeful for dyeing a red colour, but now forbidden to be plucked up, leſt the removing of it promote that driving of the ſands which every where threatens to deſolate the level ſhores. *Briſgean*, or wild ſherrat, is a ſucculent root, which the common people boil, and uſe for potatoes or bread. Carmile roots, wild carrots, baldmony, hemlock, with the ſtrawberry, and cranberry plants, the juniper-buſh, and the bramble, alſo grow here. Eagles, hawks, ravens, herns, crows, plovers, muirfowls, wood-cocks, ptarmigans, ſoland-geeſe, gulls, wild-ducks and geeſe, ſtar-nags, faſgatars, and innumerable other land, but eſpecially water-fowls, are common to North Uiſt with the contiguous iſles. Pole-cats, weaſels, and deer leſs noxious, are among the wild quadrupeds. The cuddy, receiving in its third year's growth the name of *ſaith*, in its fourth, that of *uxe*, and waxing through various gradations of bulk, to the ſize of the ſalmon, is the moſt plentiful of all the ſpecies of ſea-fiſhes which frequent theſe ſhores. Lyth, cod, herrings, ling, ſand-eels, lobſters, crabs, clams, oyſters, wilks, periwinkles, cockles, muſcles, limpets, ſpout-fiſhes, and many other ſorts of ſhell-fiſhes are alſo numerous; otters, ſeals, dog-fiſhes, ſkates, ſwarm over the whole coaſts.

Inhabitants, and Cultivation.——The Iſland of North Uiſt is the property of Lord Macdonald

Macdonald. It may contain about 2000 inhabitants. It has been the policy of the preſent proprietor, to reduce the poſſeſſions of the tackſmen to farms, not too extenſive to be managed and ſtocked without ſubſetting, but each cultivated by the perſon who holds it in leaſe; and to raiſe the inferior tenantry from a ſecondary dependence upon the tackſmen, to hold immediately from the landlord; a policy this, which is ſaid to have indeed diſcontented the tackſmen, but which certainly tends to encourage the induſtry, and to improve the comfort of the poorer claſs.—The ſea-weeds on the ſhores of this, as well as of the other iſlands, are advantageouſly manufactured into kelp. From this iſland, as well as from thoſe which have been above deſcribed, very large quantities of kelp are annually exported. Horſes, black-cattle, ſheep, and goats, are the living farm-ſtock. The exports of black-cattle are made by the way of Sky. The inſtruments and modes of agriculture are the ſame as in Harris. Some fields have been gained to the plough, by the draining of *lochs*. Barley, potatoes, and black oats, are the common articles of crop.——Around North Uiſt, lie various Iſlets; all frequented by wild-fowls; ſome affording paſture; moſt of them peats; but all valued for the kelp, for which they afford materials. Of theſe *Hiſher*, at eight miles diſtance, is inhabited by ten families; Little Barrey, only one mile diſtant, by twelve families.—(See Report to the General Aſſembly; Campbell's Survey, i. 624, &c. Statiſtical Account, vol. xiii.)

XI. BENBECULA.

BENBECULA is divided from North Uiſt, by a ſound, ſeven miles broad. Its circumference may be about ten miles. From South Uiſt it is ſeparated by a narrower and ſhallow ſound, fordable at low water. Its weſtern ſide is plain and fertile; its eaſtern, mountainous. It has ſtill the remains of an ancient nunnery upon it. Its ſoil, animals, natural, and cultivated productions, are ſuch as have been deſcribed in the accounts of the more Northern Iſlands. Its population has been reckoned only together with that of South Uiſt, and Eriſca.—Its proprietor is Macdonald of Clanronald.

XII. ERISCA.

XII. ERISCA.

ERISCA is an appendage of the Pariſh of South Uiſt. Its extent is not large; nor its population numerous. The natural ſtate of this Iſle differs but inconſiderably from that of the others which have been deſcribed. The fiſhery, kelp, paſturage, and a little tillage, are the means it preſents for the maintenance of its inhabitants. It is not known to be diſtinguiſhed by quadrupeds, fiſhes, or fowls peculiar to itſelf. ——The eagles common through all theſe iſles, have been occaſionally made the inſtruments of a ſingular ſpecies of theft. Some of the idler and more miſchievous peaſants, ſeeking out an eagle's neſt, ſew up the eaglet's anus. Thus unable to void their excrements, they ſhriek continually from pain. The parent eagles, miſtaking this ſhrieking for the cry of unſatisfied hunger, return inceſſantly for lambs, kids, and fiſhes. The neſt is loaded with freſh proviſions. In the evening, the thief ſteals to it; gives a temporary relief to the burſting eaglets; again ſtitches up their fundaments; and carries off the ſuperfluous proviſions which the old eagles have laid in. But this practice is now diligently checked.

XIII. SOUTH UIST.

Natural State.

SOUTH UIST, contiguous at its northern extremity to Benbecula, is an Iſland about thirty miles long, from two to nine miles in breadth. Its area has been calculated to afford, on the weſt ſide, about forty thouſand acres of land ſuſceptible of culture. It has many lakes of freſh water. On the eaſt ſide, it is mountainous, like the more northern Iſles above deſcribed. Its wild quadrupeds, birds, and fiſhes, are alſo the ſame as thoſe of the contiguous iſles. The ſame fiſhes frequent its ſhores. The ſame ſea-weeds are produced, or caſt upon them, in great abundance.

Cultivation.——

Cultivation.——This Iſle, of which a conſiderable part belongs to Macdonald of Clanronald, is accounted to contain more than two thouſand inhabitants. A conſiderable emigration indeed took place from it, not many years ſince. Hemp and flax are here raiſed with ſufficient ſucceſs. The ſea-weeds are burnt into kelp; of which 1100 tons are annually made here. Oil is prepared from the cetaceous fiſhes which are caught on the coaſt. The cuddies, and other fiſhes already enumerated, afford a great part of the ſuſtenance of the poorer inhabitants. 800 ſmall horſes, 480 black cattle, 7000 ſheep,—and ſwine, form the living farm-ſtock of the iſland. All the mechanic arts of primary utility, are rudely exerciſed by the peaſantry. The huſbandry of South Uiſt is not more judicious, than that of the contiguous Iſles. Sea-weeds are the common manure; barley or potatoes, the firſt crop; and after theſe, ſucceſſive crops of black oats are ordinarily taken. Cattle are then fed and fattened, on the excellent graſs which this land continues to produce for a while after it has been under tillage. The plough is employed for the cultivation of the broad plains; the *Caſchrom*, and the *Caſdireach*, in cultivating thoſe declivities and narrow ſummits upon which the plough could not be conveniently uſed; or the ſmall poſſeſſions of the peaſants, who cannot obtain the help of horſes and a plough. Garden ſtuffs of good quality are raiſed here, in ſufficient plenty. But this, like the contiguous Iſles, has very little wood. Roads, incloſures, bridges, and mounds to protect the weſtern coaſt from the ravages of the ſea, are greatly wanted. (Campbell's Survey, i. 623;—Report to the Aſſembly in 1766;—Statiſtical Account, vol. xiii. No. 20.)

XIV. BARRA.

BARRA, lying ſouth from South Uiſt, is reckoned to be eight miles long, and three in breadth. With ſix contiguous iſles which are ſmaller, and are comprehended in the ſame pariſh, it contains a population of about twelve hundred ſouls. It is leſs fair in its appearance, and leſs ſuſceptible of cultivation, than South Uiſt.

It

It is the eſtate of the Chieftain Macneill. His lands are, for the moſt part, let, not in large tracts to tackſmen, but in farms of moderate extent. Ling and cod are caught on the coaſt. The productions of this Iſland, and the œconomy of labour in it, are ſuch as have been deſcribed under the reſt of the Lewis Iſles.——

Waterſey, Sandery, Pabbey, Mingalley, Bernerey are five of the ſix Iſlets above alluded to. They lie almoſt in a line, ſouth from Barra; afford ſimilar productions, and are under the ſame cultivation.—(Statiſtical Account, v. xiii. No 22, &c.)

All theſe Iſles lie together, in a direction extending nearly from north to ſouth. They have been named, in general, " the Long Iſland." In *the Chronicle of Man*, they are diſtinguiſhed by the common name of *Lodhus*; which I ſhould rather write *Leod-eys*; and which has been contracted into *Lewis*. Whether the firſt ſyllable of the above word, be deſcriptive, in the ancient Norſe, of any thing in the aſpect of the iſlands; whether it may have been communicated to the family of the Macleods; or derived from them,—cannot now be well aſcertained. But, certain it is, that the Macleods were ſeated in two rival families, in Lewis and in Harris; till Lewis was forfeited by its ancient poſſeſſors; and Harris ſince ſold by Macleod to a gentleman of his clan. *Ey* in the Norſe languages, ſignifies *Iſle*; and with many other circumſtances, concurs to prove, that the Lewis Iſles were firſt peopled from Scandinavia. Theſe Iſles form one range of rocks. They extend regularly, a lofty precipitous ridge, towards the eaſt; on the weſt ſide, ſubſiding ſlowly into a level of ſome extent. The rocks are of that claſs, which Naturaliſts, upon a well-grounded theory of their comparative formation, have denominated *Primary*. Whatever the æra of their origin, or the effort of nature by which they were produced; it appears at leaſt, that the Lewis iſles have all one common baſis, broken and diverſified at the ſurface, by elevations accidentally varied.—— Among ſuch a multitude of rocks and Iſlets, the navigation is neceſſarily perilous and difficult. But, the narrower parts of theſe ſeas are little frequented, unleſs for the fiſhery or the kelp-trade; the coaſts have been ſurveyed; and the Iſlanders are ready pilots.—(See Campbell's Survey; v. i. p. 623, &c. Report to the General Aſſembly, in 1766;—Knox's Tour; Anderſon's Report &c.)

XV. ST KILDA.

Natural State.

ST KILDA, famous as the moſt weſtern of the Hebudæ, and anciently named Herta, lies about twenty leagues ſouth-weſt from Harris; and contiguous to it, on the north, are the two Iſlets of Boreray, and Soey. St Kilda is about three miles in length, not more than one in breadth. Its ſhores, readily acceſſible to ſhips only at one ſmall bay, preſent to the ſea, almoſt every where elſe, a precipitous ledge of rocks. Four or five hills appear within the Iſle; but, of theſe, Congara towers above the reſt; hanging awfully over the billows, and commanding a proſpect of an hundred and fifty miles of ſea and land. Its perpendicular height is *nine hundred yards**. Innumerable fowls make their neſts, and bring forth their young around the cliffs of St Kilda: the ſolan-gooſe, the fulmar, the lavie, the fuilag, the gare, the puffin, being, among theſe, the ſpecies the moſt peculiar and the moſt plentiful. The fiſhing-banks extend for about thirty miles round this Iſland. Veſſels ſent out to fiſh here, have met with the moſt encouraging ſucceſs. And whales have been obſerved, as it were, plowing their way through the ſhoals of herrings paſſing ſouthwards, between the Iſles of Lewis and St Kilda.

Cultivation.——This Iſle is the property of Mr Macleod of Harris. It is rented for 11 guineas by a ſingle tackſman; who is, at the ſame time, the only ſhopkeeper in the Iſland. Its inhabitants conſiſt of twenty ſeven families, about one hundred ſouls. Gaelic is the language here, as through the reſt of the Iſles. There is a clergyman for the Iſland, who enjoys a ſalary of five and twenty pounds a year. The ſea-fowls furniſh the chief part of the ſubſiſtence of the people of St Kilda. The rocks are as carefully parted among them, as if thoſe were ſo many fertile, cultivated fields. They climb to the heights of their cliffs; let one another down the precipitous fronts,

over

* So ſay my authorities: but, I doubt the fact.

over the ſea, by ropes; and ſpoil the neſts,—which are placed thick, wherever there is the ſmalleſt room for a bird-neſt,—of eggs, of young, and even of the parent fowls, if theſe be not alert and artful enough to make their eſcape. The down and feathers are carefully plucked and laid *aſide* for exportation. Such of the fowls and eggs as cannot be preſently conſumed, are dried and ſtored up among peat-aſhes. The fulmar, one of their moſt highly valued fowls, yields an oil which they burn in their lamps, and apply as a remedy for almoſt all diſeaſes. The ſolan-geeſe are taken frequently by hundreds together, in April and the beginning of May. Their eggs are gathered in the middle of the latter of theſe months. The Lavie is the prey of February. The Fulmar, of Auguſt. The puffins are taken in prodigious quantities through all ſummer. The other fowls above mentioned, are either leſs numerous, or leſs eſteemed for food.

St Kilda, with the Iſlets of Boreray and Soey, feed a conſiderable quantity of ſheep and black-cattle. But, the tackſman, by an old uſage, receives all the milk from May to Michaelmas. Every ſecond he-lamb, every ſeventh fleece, every tenth ewe-lamb is likewiſe his. The ſheep produce, not ſeldom, two or three lambs each, in the ſeaſon. The ſoil of the Iſland is exceedingly fertile; being ſheltered within thoſe rocks which guard the ſhores; and enriched probably by the dung and exuviæ of ſuch immenſe multitudes of fowls. Eighty acres are under tillage; and a greater extent might eaſily be cultivated. Potatoes, oats, barley, rye, are the articles of crop. The ſame aukward inſtruments are employed, and the ſame unſkilful modes of induſtry are practiſed here, as in the Lewis Iſles. The dung of the cattle, collected within the houſes, is one conſiderable article of manure. One rude dwelling, without ſeparation of apartments, ſhelters both the family and their cattle. The litter of the cattle is never removed; but new layers of ſtraw are from time to time laid for them. The family have their beds of ſtraw or heath, in nitches of the wall. The floor, in the mean time, riſes with the accumulation of the dung and litter; till, upon the return of the ſeaſon for ſpreading it on the fields, it is carefully removed. To the tackſman, beſide the above profits from the cattle, eighty bolls of barley and potatoes are annually paid. And he enjoys likewiſe a monopoly of all the exportation and importation

of

of the Iſle. From the feathers, exported to Liverpool, his annual profits are very conſiderable. But, if the herring-fiſhery ſhall ſucceed, and continue to be proſecuted on the banks round St Kilda, the inhabitants of the Iſle may then be emancipated from the domination of their tackſman; and may diſpoſe of their commodities to better advantage. As it is, they enjoy abundance of neceſſaries through all the year; and know leſs of pinching want, than almoſt any other of the Hebudians. The women prepare clothing from the fleece to the coat, gown, and petticoat: other correſponding arts are exerciſed by the men; but without diſtinction of trades.—(Buchanan, Hiſt. Lib. 1. Martin's Weſtern Iſles; Knox's Tour, p. 156, 160. Macaulay's Hiſt. of St Kilda, *paſſim*. Campbell's Survey, p. 624, &c.)

XVI. S K Y.

Natural State.

SKY, perhaps the largeſt of all the Hebudæ, and with all the iſles which have been here enumerated and deſcribed, (except only Lewis), comprehended in Inverneſs-ſhire; lies at the diſtance of about 18 miles S. W. from Harris; on the S. E. it approaches very near to the diſtrict of Glenelg, on the continent of Scotland; on the S. it is divided by about five leagues of ſea, from the promontory of Ardnamurchan in Argyle-ſhire; the *Minſh* channel, on the W. divides it from South Uiſt and Barrey; and the ſea by which it is waſhed on the N. opens at length into the northern ocean.

This iſland is deeply interſected round its whole circumference, by arms of the ſea. The bay of Portree, Loch-Snizort, and Loch-Braccadale, are the largeſt of its bays. In length, it may be between 50 and 60 miles; in breadth, from 12 to 36 miles. The aſpect of its *ſurface* is irregular as its *figure*. Its mountains tower up in different places, into the lofty ſummits of Cullinn, Scornifrey, Bein-ſtore, Bein-vore-ſcowe, Bein-cro, Bein-nin, Kaillach, the two Hallivails, and others. Below are vales, here and there divided by ſtreams of various magnitudes; wide moraſſes moiſtened by ſtag-

nant

naint water; ſlowly ſloping declivities, and level fields. The bare crags often appear without vegetation towards the ſummits of the hills; brown heath ſpreads over their declivities, and around their baſes; the moraſſes are covered with grey moſſes, intermingled with bog-graſſes of a dark green hue; ſpots of a livelier verdure are thinly ſcattered here and there among the heaths and moraſſes; and fair green paſtures and cultivated grounds ſkirt the bays and rivers; and are continually incroaching upon the wilder country. Here is little wood; yet, at Armidel, on the eaſt coaſt, the garden is ſhaded by ſome ſtately aſhes, of a ſpecies uncommonly valuable. The character of the ſoil is diverſified through the iſland; a light gravel on the hills; peat-earth, in the moraſſes; under this, in various places, abundance of marle; clay in ſome parts; in others, a rich and fertile mould over lime-ſtone. Sea-weeds grow in great plenty around the ſhores. The climate of Sky is not the moſt genial or benignant. The Spring is backward; Summer indeed warm, yet not torrid; but about the dog-days, the rains uſually begin, and with few intervals of any length, continue to fall till the end of Autumn. Winter ſeldom or never brings ſevere froſts or heavy falls of ſnow; but the rains ſtill continue till the return of Spring, and are often accompanied with loud tempeſtuous winds.

The wild quadrupeds of Sky, are deer, the ſtag, and the roe, foxes in a troubleſome abundance, and weaſels; but no hares, and neither rats nor mice. Almoſt all the fowls of the Lewis iſles likewiſe abound in Sky. The cuckow, the ſwan, the ſmall petterel have been diſtinguiſhed as migratory or as rare. Of the fiſhes which frequent the coaſts in amazing numbers, and in a vaſt diverſity of ſpecies, herrings are the moſt plentiful. Various cetaceous fiſhes attend the progreſs of the herrings. Cod, ling, turbot, mackerel, haddocks, flounders, and cuddies, are alſo numerous. In the rivers are ſalmon, trouts, and all the variety of freſh-water fiſhes. Several vipers are found in Sky; and of ſome of them the bite is ſaid to be peculiarly noxious. But, of its reptiles and inſects in general, the hiſtory has not been yet inveſtigated.

Cultivation.—The number of the inhabitants of Sky, is about 16000.- Lord Macdonald, Colonel Macleod, and Mackinnon, three chiefs of clans, with Mr Macaliſter

of

of Strathaird, are the proprietors of the lands of the iſland. In it are ſeven parochial clergymen. It has two *grammar-ſchools*. The tackſmen are gradually dwindling into ſimple farmers. The labouring claſs, being here nearer than in the Lewis iſles, to the main-land of Scotland, are leſs abſolutely and hopeleſsly dependent upon the proprietors of the land and the farm-ſtock. They are not confined to a ſingle market for their labour.

All the more neceſſary mechanic arts are practiſed by artiſans in Sky. Here are taylors, ſhoemakers, weavers, carpenters, maſons. The old Highland dreſs is ſtill worn partially by the labouring claſs. The houſes are huts, with walls of mud or of ſtones without cement, and covered on the roof with turfs, and over theſe, ſtraw, ferns, or heath;—buildings having walls of ſtones and mortar, with a ſingle row of windows, and equally covered with turfs over the rafters, and upon the turfs, ſtraw, with ferns, or heath;—or loftier habitations, riſing to ſeveral ſtories, with walls of good maſon work, and flatted roofs. The domeſtic œconomy of the poor is ſimple, yet differing leſs from that of the Lowland Scots, than in the Lewis iſles. At Sconſor, is a poſt-office. Kelp is made on the ſhores. Liverpool, and ſome trading towns in Ireland, are the markets to which the greater part of it is ſent. Fiſhing for immediate home-conſumption, or for curing and exportation, is practiſed round all the coaſts of the iſland. A barrel of ſalted herrings is ſold in the iſland, for 16s. ſalted ling for L. 13 a ton. A cow coſts from L. 2: 10 to L. 3; a ſheep 6s. Butter, from 10s. to 12s. a ſtone; cheeſe, 4s. a ſtone. Men ſervants receive for yearly wages, from L. 2: 10 to L. 5, with four pairs of ſhoes; women ſervants from 8s. to L. 1, with three pairs of ſhoes in the year. Men ſervants who are married are allowed each man for wages,—as much arable ground as he can cultivate; paſture for two milk-cows, twelve ſheep, and two horſes; two days in the week for his own work; and his food when he works for his maſter.

As to the agriculture of Sky; it is not yet very laborious, or very ſkillful; but a little of the iſland is incloſed and under cultivation. Goats, ſheep, black-cattle, and horſes, feed upon the open hills and moors. Of the black-cattle eſpecially, which are the ſtaple commodity of the iſland, very large numbers are annually exported. Theſe are wintered, all but the milk-cows, in the fields, and ſcantily fed with hay or ſtraw. They are ſmall, but handſome. Out of the returns from the exported cattle are the

landlord's rents chiefly paid. The ſheep are not numerous in proportion to the extent of the iſland. Cheeſe, butter, or wool, are not exported. The cattle from the Southern Lewis iſles are exported by the way of Sky. Engliſh dealers, or men of the country, who meet the Engliſh dealers at the ſouthern markets, are the merchants of all theſe cattle.

The incloſed and cultivated ground conſiſts of gardens, meadows, and fields of corn, flax, and potatoes. The *gardens* of the poor afford only the moſt common pot-herbs; thoſe of the farmers produce theſe in greater variety and abundance, with perhaps a fruit-tree or ſhrub. The gardens of the gentlemen which are furrounded with good walls, and carefully dreſſed, afford all the various fruits, flowers, roots, and herbs that are raiſed in Scottiſh gardens. But the climate often blaſts or dwarfs the fruits; and only the more hardy pot-herbs thrive always well. The *meadows* are covered only with the mixture of native graſſes, and receive no cultivation, unleſs that of being divided from the ordinary acceſs of the cattle, and cleared from ſtones, for the ſcythe. The *corn-fields*, are, for the greater part, *plowed* with the common Scottiſh plough, drawn by four horſes. Thoſe of the poor are indeed ſometimes delved with the *Caſchrom* and the *Caſdireach*. Sea-weeds are the favourite manure on the coaſts; dung is alſo uſed; and there is no want of marle or lime-ſtone. Potatoes are often planted with the ſpade, as alſo barley. Cultivation with the ſpade affords larger increaſe than cultivation with the plough; but that not ſo much larger as to repay the greater quantity of labour employed. Flax is raiſed, but in no large quantities. Black oats are the prevalent grain. Theſe are ſown after potatoes or barley, for two or three years ſucceſſively; and then the ground is left for a while untilled. March and April are the months of ſowing; September and October of reaping. Some of the gentlemen in the iſland have begun to try the draining of the moraſſes, and the raiſing of green crops. Their example may be gradually imitated through the iſland. Even in the beſt years, no grain can be exported from Sky; in unfavourable years, a conſiderable importation is required. Roads begin to be very induſtriouſly made through the iſland. New fields and farms are now annually incloſed. The price of labour is riſing.—(Johnſon's Journey, eſpecially under the titles, *Uliniſh* and *Oſtig in Sky*. Boſwell's

Tour, *Sky*. Pennant's Tour, in 1772. Campbell's Survey, p. 607, to 616. Statiſtical Account, vol. ii. p. 547, to 558. vol. iii. p. 245, to 250. vol. iv. 130, to 138.)

XVII. R O N A.

RONA is a ſmall uninhabited iſle, about three miles long, and nearly one mile broad; lying between Sky and the mainland; the property of Macleod of Raaſay; rocky and barren; yet affording paſture for an hundred and ſixty cattle.—(Johnſon's Journey, under the title of *Raaſay*. Boſwell's Tour, p. 198. Campbell's Survey, p. 615.)

XVIII. F L A D D A.

FLADDA is a beautiful green iſlet, about one mile in circumference; lying north from Rona; and, with it, the property of Macleod of Raaſay.

Pabba and Scalpa are contiguous iſlets.—(Campbell's Survey. Boſwell's Tour, &c.)

XIX. R A A S A Y.

Natural State.

RAASAY, lying at ſome diſtance eaſt from Sky, and ſouth from Rona, is about fifteen Engliſh miles in length, four in breadth. It is "rough, rocky, and barren." Dun-Can, a lofty hill towards the ſouthern end of the iſle, rivals in height the higheſt of the oppoſite hills of Sky. Between Dun-Can and the ſouthern ſhore, are two lakes of freſh water. On the ſame ſide of this hill, are ſome fine old trees, and a greater quantity of natural wood, of younger growth. Towards the northern end of the iſle, is a large tract of fair paſture ground. Here and there are precipices dangerous to the cattle. In thoſe parts of the lower grounds which approach to the character of moraſs, the dwarfiſh ſhrub, *bog-gall*, grows in great profuſion. The ſoil is, for the greater part, peat-earth, ſandy, or a light gravel. The climate is ſingularly moiſt;

moiſt; rain being calculated to fall on this iſle, for about nine months in the year. Many rivulets deſcend from the ſides of Dun-Can, and among the other eminences. Raaſay has ſcarcely any wild quadrupeds, but wild fowls in great abundance; black-cocks, moor-fowl, plovers, and wild pigeons. In the lakes and rivulets, are trouts, eels, and ſalmons. Sea-fiſhes, in great variety, ſwarm on the ſhores.

Cultivation.——The whole iſle belongs to Macleod of Raaſay, the repreſentative of a family who are ſaid to have been anciently proprietors of the iſle of Lewis. It may contain between eight hundred and a thouſand inhabitants. Black-cattle are the chief produce of the iſle; and the annual exportation of quantities of theſe brings the money with which the rents are paid. Sheep, goats, and ſmall horſes, are alſo fed here in ſufficient numbers. All the inhabitants have fiſhing-boats; and the fiſhes they take round the ſhores, form no ſmall part of their proviſions. Grey-oats, barley, and potatoes, are raiſed here, in a ſimilar proportion, as to quantity, and by the ſame practices of cultivation, as in the contiguous iſles. Raaſay has in it abundance of lime-ſtone, as alſo of ſand-ſtone. Round the family-ſeat of the proprietor, are fields affording excellent graſs and corn. His garden is plentifully ſtocked with pot-herbs, flowers, and fruit-bearing ſhrubs.—(Johnſon's Journey, under the title of *Raaſay*. Boſwell's Tour, 192. Knox's Tour, &c.)

XX. CANNAY.

CANNAY is one of five iſlets which lie in the channel between Sky and the Uiſts.

It is 4 miles long, and 1 mile in breadth; of a fertile, arable ſoil, well watered, and producing abundance of corn and graſs. At its eaſt end, is a good harbour; near which are two banks on which cod-fiſhes are taken in large quantities. The iſle is divided into 5 farms, the property of Macdonald of Clanronald. It has about 300 inhabitants. The rents are paid with money received for cattle annually exported. Cannay is one of four iſlets which form a pariſh. Its inhabitants have long been

chiefly Papiſts.—(Campbell's Survey, i. 614. Report to the General Aſſembly. Johnſon's Tour, &c. Statiſtical Account of the pariſh of Small Iſles.)

XXI. RUM.

RUM lies at ſome diſtance ſouth from Cannay, in the ſame channel; is of a circular form, and about twelve miles in diameter; the property of Maclean of Coll; "mountainous, rugged, and barren;" having red deer on its hills, and a breed of horſes, remarkable as the ſmalleſt in theſe iſles; inhabited by about 450 ſouls, who have little corn,—and ſheep, goats, and black-cattle, but of inferior breeds.—(Campbell's Survey, i. 615. Johnſon's Journey, under the title, *Coll.* Report to the General Aſſembly. Statiſtical Account of Small Iſles.)

XXII. EGG.

EGG, lying ſouth-eaſt from Rum, at no great diſtance, is from 4 to 5 miles long, from 2 to 3 in breadth; fertile and well cultivated; containing about 400 inhabitants, of whom the greater part are Papiſts; the property of Macdonald of Clanronald. Here are eight ploughs.—(Campbell's Survey, i. 615. Johnſon's Journey, *Col.* Report to the General Aſſembly. Statiſtical Account of the pariſh of Small Iſles.)

XXIII. MUCK.

MUCK, or *the Iſle of Swine,* anciently remarkable for its falcons, is between 2 and 3 miles in length, 1 mile in breadth, lies contiguous to Egg; contains about two hundred ſouls; affords as well grain, as cattle for exportation: has in it no artiſans; although theſe be called in, from time to time, as they are wanted.—*Aich* is a ſmaller iſlet, adjacent to Muck, and reſerved for paſture. Mr Maclean is proprietor of both.

—Campbell's

—(Campbell's Survey, i. 615. Johnſon's Journey, *Dunvegan.* Report to the General Aſſembly. Statiſtical Account of the pariſh of Small Iſles.)

XXIV. MULL.

Natural State.

THE Iſland of Mull lies at a conſiderable diſtance ſouthward from the Iſles laſt deſcribed; from the moſt ſouthern of which it is divided by two narrow intermediate channels, and by the jutting point of Ardnamurchan. The Sound of Mull ſeparates it, on the eaſt, from the main land, and from the fertile Iſle of Liſmore. The Minſh-channel waſhes its weſtern ſide. Jura, Scarba, and others of the Hebudian Iſles, lie at ſome diſtance ſouthward from it.

Mull is about twenty four miles long, and as many in breadth. Around its circumference, it is interſected by various arms of the ſea; on the weſt, by two ſpacious bays which enter very deep into the land. Its general aſpect is rugged and mountainous. It has ſtill remains of ancient woods; the greater part of which have been gradually cut down. Two mountains in Mull, Beinmore and Bein-taluidh, are ſo lofty as to afford from their ſummits, proſpects aſtoniſhingly extenſive, of the circumjacent iſles, and the contiguous main land. By much the greater part of the Iſle exhibits nothing but crags, heath, and ſwampy moraſſes. The ſoil is in other places, a loam, a gravel, or a clay. The climate is, in its general character, neither genial nor conſtant; tolerably fair, but cold, from the beginning of April, to the end of May; from May till the middle of July, agreeably warm; during the reſt of the year, rains, winds, froſt, and ſnow, prevail almoſt inceſſantly. Yet, while the hills are capped with clouds, and their ſides deluged with rains, or covered deep with ſnow, the lower country often enjoys fair and mild weather. Weſt winds are the moſt prevalent. The inland parts of Mull are well watered by ſprings, and by ſtreams of various ſizes. Sea-weeds grow in great abundance upon its ſhores. The ſtreams of freſh water afford trouts and ſalmons. Shoals of ſea-fiſhes, eſpecially of herrings, frequent the bays. On

the

the mountains are foxes and red deer. The more prevalent ſpecies of wild fowls are the eagle, the hawk, the grouſe, the black-cock, the ptarmigan, the wood-cock.

Cultivation.——This Iſland contains about ſix thouſand inhabitants. The Duke of Argyle is proprietor of the greater part of it. The remainder is divided among a number of ſmaller proprietors. The living ſtock are the chief moveable wealth of the iſland. 2000 black cattle are annually exported from Mull; but of theſe indeed ſome part have firſt been imported from Coll and Tirey. A conſiderable quantity of kelp is made, every year, around the ſhores of the Iſland. The herrings appear uſually in Auguſt and in October; and are then taken in great abundance. The Agriculture of Mull differs not materially from that which has been already deſcribed, in the account of others of the Hebudæ. But the barrenneſs of the ſoil renders the cultivation of Mull inferior, conſidering the extent of the Iſland, to that of many of the circumjacent iſles. Hemp, flax, oats, barley, potatoes are the articles which the inhabitants raiſe by culture. Having hardly grain of the growth of the Iſland for their own ſupport, even in the moſt plentiful years; the people of Mull are very ſoon reduced to diſtreſs, in a year of general ſcarcity. Their horſes are ſmall, but handſome, ſtout, and hardy; the breed is believed to have been anciently improved by intermixture with ſome horſes, out of a ſhipwrecked veſſel of the Spaniſh Armada. A market for horſes is annually held, on the twenty-firſt day of Auguſt, in the pariſh of Toroſay. Sheep and goats form likewiſe a conſiderable part of the living ſtock of this Iſle. Roads have begun to be cut in different directions through Mull; and bridges have been conſtructed over many of the larger ſtreams. Flocks of domeſtic fowls are kept about every farmer's dwelling.—(Campbell's Survey, i. 599; Johnſon's Journey, *Mull*; Report to the General Aſſembly, in 1766. Statiſtical Account of Scotland, vol. iii. No 38.)

XXV. COLL

XXV. COLL.

Natural State.

THE ſituation of this Iſle is at ſome diſtance weſtward rom Mull. It is in length, fourteen miles; in breadth, two miles. The ſhores are rocky, and in many places precipitous. The interior parts of the Iſle riſe, but to no lofty elevation; and the ſurface is diverſified by craggy, but inconſiderable eminences, over all its extent. The ſprings, ſmall lakes, and narrow ſtreams are numerous; the lakes not fewer than forty eight; of which nineteen abound in trouts. The ſoil is either peat-earth, or a light and thin gravel, upon a bottom of rock or ſand. Here are no trees. Heath covers the greater part of the iſle. Fields of corn and green graſſes are here and there interſperſed. No reptiles infeſt Coll. Geeſe of three different ſorts, ſwans, rails, green and grey plovers, and mouſe-coloured ſwallows are the moſt remarkable of the birds of this iſle. Multitudes of rabbits burrow in the ſand, at its eaſt end; for a driving ſand there encroaches gradually on the ſoil; as in the Uiſts before deſcribed. A couple of hares introduced about eight or nine years ſince, have multiplied in that ſpace of time, to many hundreds. Rats have been accidentally imported. Seals, and a variety of other fiſhes, cetaceous and cartilaginous, are taken on the ſhores. At Croſſapool, in this Iſle, is a lead-mine.

Cultivation.——Maclean of Coll is proprietor of the greater part of the Iſland; but portions, at its two extremities, belong to the Duke of Argyle. Its inhabitants are, in number, one thouſand and forty one. Here are artiſans of all the more neceſſary mechanic arts; but none eminently expert in their employments. Coll being very advantageouſly ſituated for the fiſhing, whenever the natives have gone out upon the banks, their ſucceſs has been ſuch as to encourage them to perſevere in cultivating this department of induſtry. Yet, are the adjacent fiſhing banks frequented chiefly by fiſhers from Barrey, from Ireland, from Ayr, and from the eaſt coaſt of Scotland.

But fiſhes are continually taken for domeſtic uſe, if not for exportation. The inclemency of the ſeaſons, and the naked condition of the Iſland have rendered ſheep ſo unprofitable an article of ſtock, that they have been almoſt wholly baniſhed from Coll. Other reaſons alſo concurred to recommend this œconomy; the wetneſs of the paſture is deſtructive to ſheep in winter; in ſummer, they ſuffer by cropping certain noxious weeds: they break the ſurface ſo as to favour the driving of the ſands; and they conſume all the more nouriſhing plants, ſo as to render the ſoil unfit for feeding black-cattle. Black-cattle are the favourite living farm-ſtock. Some of a large breed have been introduced; one of theſe, after being for ſome time fed by Mr Spearman of Northumberland, was lately found to weigh in beef, tallow, and hide, 117 ſtone, 5¼ lib. Thirteen hundred are the ſum of the black-cattle in Coll. Of theſe thirty are, at an average, yearly ſlaughtered in the Iſland; and two hundred and fifty exported. The ſheep are five hundred; the horſes, are many. A full-grown horſe brings a price between *L.* 2. and *L.* 5.—Five and fifty tons of kelp are annually made on the ſhores of Coll.

Agriculture begins to be improved in the Iſland. Incloſures begin to be extended over the farms. Roads are made and repaired. The plowing is indeed aukward and inconvenient. Two men with two horſes, firſt guide and drag the *riſtle*, which, cuts, without opening the furrow. Theſe are followed by the Scottiſh plough, drawn by four horſes, and guided by other two men; which opens up the furrow, and turns over the ſod. Sea-ware, the manure in this as in the other Iſles, is conveyed from the ſhore to the field, in *creels*,—two upon a horſe's back. The crop, however plentiful, can ſcarcely ever afford an adequate compenſation for the labour neceſſary to raiſe it. Here is no good mill. When the black oats and barley have been reaped and gathered in, the corn required for daily uſe, is parched, and then ground in the *Quern*, at a great waſte of ſtraw, of grain, and of women's labour. A great part of the barley is conſumed in the diſtillation of whiſky, of which there is a quantity annually exported from Coll. A conſiderable portion of the labour of ſummer is neceſſary to cut, to dry, and to bring home, peats for fuel. Flax and hemp are raiſed, but not in large quantities. Graſs-ſeeds have been ſown with ſufficient advantage.

The

The price of barley is from 16*s* to *L.* 1. a boll: of potatoes, from 1*s* to 2*s* 6*d*, a barrel; butter and cheeſe, 18*s* for 24 lib. Engliſh; beef *L.* 1. 10*s*, to *L.* 2. a barrel; freſh cod, of middle ſize, 3*d*, a head; ling, 6*d* a head; a ſow, from 5*s*, to 10*s*; ſheep, from 4*s*, to 6*s*; hens and ducks, 6*d*, a fowl; living cows and oxen, *L.* 1: 16 to *L.* 3: 10.——The wages of a man-ſervant, having riſen about one-third within the laſt four years, now amount to about *L.* 4. a year; thoſe of a female-ſervant, which have riſen in the ſame proportion, within the ſame time, to *L.* 1: 10*s*. Artiſans earn, beſide their food, from 7*d*, to 1*s* 2*d*, a day.——(Johnſon's Journey, *Coll*; Statiſtical Account, vol. x. No 29.)

XXVI. TIREY.

Natural State.

TIREY lying S. by W. from Coll, from which it is divided by a ſound, about a league in breadth, is about eleven miles long; two miles and a half broad. The coaſt is rocky; but opening into many beautiful ſandy bays; ſome a mile broad at the head. In this Iſle are five or ſix green hills, three of which riſe from 200 to 300 feet above the level of the ſea. Twenty four ſmall lakes cover about ſix hundred acres of the area of the Iſle. Adjacent to every one of the bays, is a tract of ſandy ground, apt for cultivation, unleſs where it riſes into green mounts, or broken banks. The interior parts of the Iſle are naturally covered with heath. Here are no marſhes, or dangerous bogs. Near the centre of the Iſle, is a plain forming almoſt a regular pentagon, of twelve hundred Scottiſh acres. It is covered with a rich verdure upon black earth, to the depth of ten inches, over a ſandy bottom. It ſeems to have been gradually gained from the ſea; and even now receives continual acceſſions. Hard whin-ſtone rocks abound in Tirey, as alſo iron-ſtone, granite, common lime-ſtone, and marble: the marble is white, red and white, white and green, or variegated with a numberleſs diverſity of figures. The ſame wild fowls which frequent Coll, are numerous alſo in Tirey. On the hill of Ceanmharra, its weſtern point, are many natural caves, in which ſea-fowls, in prodigious numbers, hatch their young: and not

only ſea-fowls, but alſo pigeons; and on the adjoining cliffs, or in loftier caves, the raven, the hawk, and the eagle. Sand, peat-earth, clay, and a rich black mould, either pure and ſeparate, or intermingled together in various proportions, are the ingredients of the ſoil of Tirey. The light ſandy ſoil predominates. The climate is little different from that of Coll.

Cultivation.——Tirey, the property of the Duke of Argyle, is inhabited by 2446 ſouls. Of theſe, 270 are farmers. The black-cattle are 1800; the ſheep, 600; the horſes, 1400. Of the black-cattle, 260 are annually exported; and about 70 are ſlaughtered every year, in the Iſland. 245 tons of kelp are annually made on the ſhores. And 160 ploughs are employed for the cultivation of the arable ground. Not very many years ſince, Coll and Tirey contained together 14000 ſheep. Theſe animals have been reduced to their preſent numbers in the two Iſlands, chiefly on account of the unfavourable circumſtances mentioned in the deſcription of Coll. The number has been likewiſe diminiſhed; becauſe they are comparatively of little value, as an article of farm-ſtock. About two-thirds of the whole arable ground of Tirey are either too wet, or too dry. The whole almoſt of the ſurface of the Iſle is expoſed to ſtorms. Barley yields four ſeeds, in crop; black-oats, two ſeeds and a half; potatoes, in what are called *Lazy-beds*, five ſeeds,—in drills, from eight to thirty two ſeeds. Sea-weeds are the common manure. The cattle are ſuffered to feed on the riſing corn, till the middle of June. Flax is alſo raiſed here; but it is of a dwarfiſh growth. The incloſure of the lands, is the improvement, at this time, the moſt ardently purſued in Tirey. Some whiſky is annually diſtilled; but very unprofitably, as it ſhould ſeem; for, when the produce of the harveſt is conſumed in diſtillation, an importation of grain for meal and ſeed becomes neceſſary in ſpring. But, in tolerably good years, the inhabitants have generally enough of corn, potatoes, and whiſky for their own uſe. The prices of labour, and of proviſions are generally the ſame in Tirey, as in Coll. From Tirey to Coll, is a ferry-boat; and from Coll to Mull, as from Mull to the main land, there are ready paſſages. The fiſhery of the banks between Tirey and Barray might very advantageouſly

employ

employ a greater number of the inhabitants of Tirey.—(Statiſtical Account of Scotland, vol. x. No 29.)

XXVII. ULVA.

ULVA is a ſmall Iſle, lying ſouth-eaſt from Coll, and cloſe upon the ſouth-weſt ſhore of Mull. Its general aſpect is brown and rocky. It has land fit as well for agriculture, as for paſture. Fiſhes may be caught in abundance around the coaſt. Sea-weeds grow on the ſhores. It has, from the moſt ancient times, been accounted fertile; and affords, at preſent, grain more than ſufficient for the ſupport of its inhabitants. It was long the ſeat of the ancient family of the Macquarrys; but was ſold from them, about twenty years ſince, for about *L.* 7000.—(Buchanani Hiſtoria, Liber i; Johnſon's Journey, *Ulva*; Boſwell's life of Johnſon.)

XXVIII. INCH-KENNETH.

INCH-KENNETH is a ſmall Iſle adjacent to Ulva, and ſcarcely a mile diſtant from the coaſt of Mull. It may be about a mile in length, half a mile in breadth. It is deſtitute of trees; but verdant; affording rich paſture; and ſufficiently ſuſceptible of tillage. It had once a priory of Eccleſiaſtics, ſubject to the abbot of I-columb-kill; and its ſhores were then plentifully ſtocked with rabbits, which burrowed among the ſands.—(Buchanani Hiſtoria, Lib. i. Johnſon's Journey; *Inch-kenneth.*)

XXIX. IONA OR I-COLUMB-KILL.

IONA OR I-COLUMB-KILL, ſituate at ſome diſtance ſouthward, upon the weſtern coaſt of Mull, is about two miles in length, and more than one mile broad. In the ſixth century, this Iſle was given to St Columba, from Ireland. From that period to the Reformation, in the ſixteenth century, it was the ſeat of regular clergy,—as well nuns as monks,—of the order of St Columba. Several of the more ancient kings

of Scotland,—ſome princes of Norway who had died, or fallen in battle, in their expeditions among the Britiſh Iſles, the Norſe kings of Man and the Hebudæ, and many of the Hebudian chieftains have been buried within the ſacred precincts of the monaſteries of Iona. The ruins of a cathedral and two other churches; of a number of chapels; and of the cells inhabited by the monks and nuns,—ſtill remain, to atteſt the ancient ſanctity and magniſicence of this Iſle. A large ſpace of ground, about the ruins, is covered with grave-ſtones. The garden of the convents may yet be traced: and the fiſh-ponds are diſcernible, with the ruins of an aqueduct which ſupplied them with water. The whole Iſle appears to have been diligently cultivated by the monks. Although at preſent more populous in proportion to its extent, than any of the circumjacent Iſles; for, it contains about 300 inhabitants; yet, ſuch is its fertility, that it affords a conſiderable exportation, as well of barley and oats, as of cattle. —(Buchanani Hiſtoria, lib. i.—Campbell's Survey, i. 605: Johnſon's Journey, &c.)

XXX. STAFFA.

STAFFA, a contiguous Iſlet, is remarkable for little, except its columnar rocks; the wonderful ſtructure and arrangement of which were firſt remarked by Sir Joſeph Banks, in his ſcientific voyage to Iceland. But, the adjacent Iſles, and various places through Scotland and Ireland preſent ſimilar columns. The hills in Egg, on approaching which, the magnetic needle is reverſed, are perhaps more wonderful. —(See Sir Joſeph Bank's paper on Staffa, in the Tranſactions of the Royal Society of London; Pennant's Tour; Van Troil's Letters from Iceland, &c.)

XXXI. XXXII. COLONSAY.

COLONSAY AND ORONSAY are two Iſles, divided from each other by a narrow ſound, which is dry at low water. They lie ſouth from Mull, and have, on the eaſt, the Iſle of Jura. Colonſay is eight miles long, and in breadth three miles.

The

The two Iſles contain together, about 718 ſouls. They contain fifteen farms; ſeven of which are partly in tillage; eight are occupied ſolely for paſture. The meaſurement of the whole area may be 8000 ſquare acres; of which 3000 are under cultivation, or at leaſt arable. No ſheep are kept in theſe Iſles. The black-cattle are of a valuable breed, and thrive well; the horſes are ſmall. Foreign graſſes have not yet been ſucceſsfully cultivated. The natural paſture is upon the low grounds uncommonly rich. Oats, barley, and potatoes are the prevalent articles of crop: Of theſe, potatoes yield the moſt abundant returns. The ſoil is generally light and ſandy. Seaweeds are the manure commonly in uſe. The rivers, although they have no great length of current, are rapid; are apt to overflow their banks; and often cannot be paſſed without danger. Labourers, as well as houſe-ſervants, have always victuals, with a money-wage: Boat-carpenters, 1*s* a day; taylors, 6*d*; as alſo ſhoemakers; and thoſe who perform the works of huſbandry: a man-ſervant, *L.* 4. in the year; a female-ſervant, *L.* 2. Kelp is made, and the fiſhing occaſionally purſued, in theſe Iſles. In moſt other things, the ſyſtem of life and of induſtry is nearly the ſame, as in the Iſles which have been above deſcribed.—(Statiſtical Account of Scotland, vol. xii. &c.)

XXIII. JURA.

Natural State.

THIS Iſle lies between thoſe laſt deſcribed, and the main-land. It is in length 24 miles; and 6 miles broad. The eaſt coaſt is remarkably plain and fertile; but in the interior parts, the mountains, named by mariners, *the Paps of Jura*, tower up to a great height. The hills are rocky, and brown with heath. The lower ground is on the weſt ſide marſhy. Springs and lakes are numerous through the Iſle. Rains are frequent; ſnow never lies long on the ground; the wind blows in conſtant breezes. The ſoil is ſandy, on the eaſt ſide of the Iſle; in the vales, and on the banks of the rivers, often a rich black mould; in many places ſtony to a degree very unfavourable to cultivation. The rocks afford rich iron ores; the moſſes growing upon them are uſeful in dyeing; as are alſo various ſhrubs growing in the Iſle. A ſlate-quarry has been

been opened, and wrought with advantage. The ſhores afford abundance of cartilaginous, of the ſmaller cetaceous, and of ſhell-fiſhes. Sea-weeds alſo, for kelp, and for manure, grow around them, in great profuſion. The hills and moors are ſtored with various ſpecies of wild fowls. The lakes and rivers afford large quantities of trouts, ſalmons, and other fiſhes uſually found in freſh water. Red-deer, of a large ſize, ſtill ſtray on the mountains; and rabbits burrow in the ſandy grounds upon the ſea-ſhore. The bays are not eaſily acceſſible to large veſſels; but there are on both ſides of the Iſle, roads which afford ſafe anchorage.

Cultivation.——The inhabitants are not above five hundred in number. The whole iſland is divided into fifteen farms. Twelve are occupied ſolely for paſture; of the remaining three, ſome parts are tilled. No foreign graſſes have been introduced here for cultivation. The horſes are ſmall, and more numerous than profitable. The cows and oxen are ſmall, but handſome; fatten well on rich paſtures; and afford excellent beef. The ſheep are a breed valuable equally for fine wool, and delicate mutton. Goats are alſo a part of the living ſtock on the farms. The agriculture of the iſland is, in general, aukward, indolent, and injudicious. Sea-weeds are the only manure employed; lime-ſtone, although plentiful, being neglected. Oats yield a very poor return for the ſeed and labour. Barley, which is alſo cultivated, is found to be more profitable. Potatoes are the only green crop raiſed here: theſe indeed are very generally cultivated, and with ſufficient advantage. Hemp and flax, it is true, are alſo raiſed in ſmall quantities. The iſland affords ſiliceous ſand for glaſs; as alſo excellent ſlates; the ſtrata of lime-ſtone, too, if quarried, might ſupply a large exportation; and the coaſts might encourage an extenſive proſecution of the fiſhery. The common mechanic arts are practiſed here; and moſt of the accommodations which the lower claſs of the people enjoy, are of the production of the iſland.—(Buchanani Hiſtoria, lib. i. Campbell's Survey, i. 593. Statiſtical Account, vol. xii. p. 316, to 335.)

XXXIV. LISMORE.

XXXIV. LISMORE.

Natural State.

LISMORE lying eaſt from Mull, and upon the coaſt of Morven in Argyleſhire, is in length ten miles, from one to two miles in breadth. The ſoil of this iſle lies on a bed of lime-ſtone. The ſurface is rough and uneven; being every where broken by the jutting rocks. The ſoil, conſiſting chiefly of a rich black mould, is abundantly fertile. Numerous ſprings of gelid, freſh water iſſue among the lime-ſtone rocks. Three lakes are plentifully ſtocked with a ſpecies of beautiful yellow trouts. Another ſpecies of trouts were about 60 years ſince, introduced into thoſe lakes, from the ſea; and theſe ſtill retain in the freſh water, all the diſtinctive marks of their race. Large eels, but no trouts, are found in another lake. The ſea-fiſhes are the ſame as on the coaſts of the other Hebudian iſles. Seals are often caught in nets, on *ſunken rocks* round theſe ſhores. Whales are frequently ſeen to purſue the ſhoals of herrings through theſe ſtreights. Here are neither rats, moles, nor foxes; but otters in great numbers, a few wild-cats, and weaſels which have become known here, only within theſe laſt twelve years. Partridges and hawks are numerous here; and wild-geeſe hatch in ſome of the ſurrounding iſlets, which are regarded as appendages of Liſmore. That uncommon bird, the *jack-daw, with red feet and bill*, is likewiſe a native of this iſle. In the bottoms of all the lakes are vaſt ſtrata of marle. In the broken lime-ſtone rocks, appear many petrifactions of ſhells, with a ſmall mixture of charcoal here and there interpoſed.

Cultivation.——The inhabitants of Liſmore, are, in number, 1121. Their induſtry is employed chiefly in Agriculture, in which they are much encouraged by the natural fertility of the ſoil, and by the abundance of marle, lime, and ſea-weeds, which their lakes, rocks, and ſhores, afford for manure. Oats, barley, potatoes, and flax, are the articles of crop ordinarily cultivated. Clo-

ver,

ver, rye-graſs, and turnips, have been tried in a ſmall way, with ſufficient ſucceſs. The rents are, for the moſt part, paid in meal and barley. On ſome farms, from twenty to twenty-ſix bolls of barley, and from ſixty to ſeventy bolls of oats, are annually ſown. But the farmers are more eager to break up new ground, than careful to improve, with due diligence, that which is already under culture. The labour of making peats for fuel, conſumes a good part of the Summer, which might be uſefully employed in the more immediate works of huſbandry. Perſonal ſervices of ſix or ſeven days work in the year, ſtill continue to be exacted by many of the landlords from their tenants. A commutation has not yet been eſtabliſhed, of money, inſtead of the labour appointed by the ſtatute, to be annually employed upon the public roads. Barley is generally ſold at from 18*s* to *L.*1 : 1, a boll; meal, at from 14*s* to 16*s* a ſtone, of 24 lbs.; cheeſe for 5*s* or 6*s*, a ſtone of the ſame weight. Labourers for the common works of huſbandry, are hired at from 8*d* to 1*s* a-day; but for making kelp, cutting wood, or burning charcoal, the wage is much higher. A taylor gets 6*d* or 8*d* a-day; ſo, alſo a ſhoe-maker; carpenters, and other mechanics have 1*s* and 2*d*;—victuals for the day are to be added to all theſe wages. A poſt-office has been opened within theſe laſt twenty years, in the contiguous diſtrict of Appin, on the main-land; which beſide the accommodation it affords to this iſland and the adjacent country, now pays a clear ſeventy pounds a year to Government.—(Buchanani Hiſtoria, lib. i. Statiſtical Account, vol. i. numb. 52.)

XXXV. I L A Y.

Natural State.

THIS iſland, more ſouthern, in ſituation, than any of thoſe above deſcribed, lies at the diſtance of about 7 leagues, from the peninſula of Cantire, on the eaſt; Ireland, on the weſt, is ſomewhat farther diſtant from it. In length, from north to ſouth, it may be from 24 to 30 miles; its breadth, from eaſt to weſt, from 18 to 24 miles. Two large inlets of the ſea, on its weſtern and ſouthern extremities, enter ſo deep

deep into its area, as to come within two miles of meeting one another. Its ſurface is every where diverſified by a multitude of little hills; only the north and north-eaſt extremities riſing to a mountainous height. The ſoil is not unfertile; in many parts, highly ſuſceptible of being enriched by cultivation. Here is abundance of lead ore, as of free-ſtone, and of lime-ſtone. Springs burſt out, in great abundance, over all the iſland. The lakes are nearly 100 in number. The Laggan or Lyſa, and another river, run for the length of many miles, and carry down each a large body of water. One rich vale running from eaſt to weſt, 6 or 8 miles in length, and 4 in breadth, is uncommonly fertile, highly cultivated, and well inhabited. In the fields, and on the hills, are hares and deer. On the ſhores, are abundance of ſea-fiſhes of almoſt all ſorts. In the lakes and rivers, are the common freſh-water fiſhes, ſalmons, trouts, pikes, and eels. The wild-fowls are thoſe common to the weſtern iſles in general.

Cultivation.——The inhabitants may be, in number, about 10,000 ſouls. Mr Campbell of Shawfield, is proprietor of the whole iſland. The horſes and black-cattle are larger than the old breeds of theſe animals, in the other Hebudæ. The ſheep are a valuable part of the animal farm-ſtock. Goats and ſwine are alſo numerous. Oats, flax, barley, and potatoes, are the chief articles of crop. The manufacture of linen-yarn, thread, and linen-cloth has been tried. On the ſhores, the ſea-weeds are burnt into kelp, for exportation; fern-aſhes are likewiſe annually prepared and exported. Black-cattle, cheeſe, butter, barley, oats, meal, malt, whiſky, are ſo many other of the exports of the inhabitants of this iſland. The broad Scottiſh plough, drawn by 4 horſes, is that in common uſe. About 2000 black-cattle may be the number annually exported; and for the horſes a large ſum is every year drawn, eſpecially from Ireland. Larger quantities of ſheep might with advantage be introduced into the farm-ſtock, inſtead of ſome part of the horſes. A part of the exportation and importation is performed by *chapmen* or travelling merchants. The cod-fiſhery has been attempted on the coaſts, with ſome ſucceſs. The roads and bridges are numerous and excellent. A weekly packet, conveying the mail, paſſengers and goods, keeps up a regular intercourſe between Ilay and the main-land. By the enlightened cares of the

proprietor, the agriculture and the general improvement of the iſland have been greatly advanced within theſe laſt 12 years. Great quantities of whiſky are diſtilled in the iſland; although the grain and the labour might be more advantageouſly employed.—A new town has been begun, and is advancing, at Bowmore.—(Campbell's Survey. Statiſtical Account, vol. xi. numb. 20, 21, 22.)

XXXVI. GIGHA.

Natural State.

GIGHA is an iſle divided from the promontory of Cantyre, by a narrow channel, 3½ miles in breadth. Its length is about 7 miles, its breadth; 2½ miles. It lies ſo low, that even its higheſt hills riſe hardly to the level of the arable lands on the adjacent coaſt of Cantyre. On the eaſt ſide, and at both ends, Gigha is arable; in the middle, and on the weſt ſide of this iſle, the ground is hilly, yet, with ſpots ſuſceptible of culture interſperſed. The ſoil is, in general, a rich loam; in ſome places, peat-earth, ſand, or clay. The weſtern ſhore is rocky, high, and precipitous; at the two extremities are breakers, at ſome diſtance from the land; on the eaſt ſide, ſome angular rocks jut out into the ſea; and there are *ſunk rocks* near, which render the navigation perilous. The tide runs north, but without any ſtrong current, on theſe ſhores; it ſeldom riſes above 6 feet; and, to this height, only with a north wind, or in calm water. The ſea-ware, cut once every 3 years, affords at each cutting 21 tons of kelp. Shell-fiſhes, lobſters, crabs, cockles, razor, or ſpout-fiſh, of large ſize and excellent quality, are taken in great abundance on the ſhores of Gigha. Cod, ling, haddocks, ſkate, and dog-fiſh, are alſo found in prodigious quantities, on a fine fiſhing bank, about 2 leagues north from this iſle. The iſle is bare of wood, except ſome under-wood which ſerves for domeſtic purpoſes; and a ſolitary plane, marking the ſituation where was once an excellent orchard, and now the only remainder of a little grove of planes which was lately to be ſeen there. But, maſſy oaks are dug up, from time to time, in the moraſſes. And, it appears, that neither the cli-

mate,

mate, the ſoil, nor the inſular ſituation of Gigha, renders it naturally or neceſſarily unfit for producing timber. Rats, mice, and a breed of cats extremely hoſtile to rabbits, are the only wild quadrupeds of this iſle. Here are, on the ſhores, the amphibious ſpecies of ſeals and otters, but in no great plenty. The ſwan, the wood-cock, the *corn-craik*, the ſwallow, the cuckoo, are the migratory birds which viſit Gigha in their proper ſeaſons. It is alſo frequented by pigeons, plovers, ravens, hooded-crows, ſtarlings, ſparrow-hawks, and jack-daws, and by all the ſea-fowls common to the other Hebudian iſles. Springs pouring their waters in rivulets, are numerous through this iſle; but it has neither lakes nor rivers.

Cultivation.——Gigha is inhabited by 592 ſouls. It is divided into 15 farms, which pay each from *L.* 30 to *L.* 100 of yearly rent. The living ſtock upon theſe, may be about 500 cows and oxen; 150 horſes; ſheep, in a lower proportion; a good number of ſwine; rabbits, hens, geeſe, &c. in ſufficient abundance. The management of the ſheep is far from ſkilful.

Oats, barley, potatoes, and flax, are the articles of crop. The common pot-herbs are raiſed in the kitchen-gardens. Sea-weeds caſt on the ſhores, are the common manure. Shells, of which there is abundance, having been once tried, unſkilfully and unſucceſsfully, are now neglected. Twenty-four ploughs are uſed in the iſland; are drawn each by 4 horſes; and are all but two, of the old Scottiſh kind, aukward and heavy. The harrows have wooden teeth; are drawn by two horſes each; and are ſometimes faſtened only to the tails of the horſes. Seed-time is between the end of March and the beginning of June; harveſt, between the end of Auguſt and the end of October. The crops commonly afford a ſmall exportation, as well of barley as of oats. Of the 15 farms into which the iſle is divided, all but 4 are poſſeſſed, each in common, by ſeveral families; they were formerly undivided and unincloſed; but, the poſſeſſors have, by degrees, begun to divide and ſubdivide their farms or portions of farms by *dykes*, or other incloſures. The dykes, formerly common, were of turfs; but dry ſtone-walls, ditches, and hedges, are now more generally preferred. The labour of preparing peats for fuel, is here, as in the other Hebudæ, very unfavourable to agri-

cultural improvements. The flax raiſed in the iſland, is ſpun for domeſtic uſe. Of the potatoes, about 1000 barrels are annually exported. The grain uſed for ſeed is very carefully cleaned, and changed occaſionally for imported ſeed. For barley, a field is thrice plowed, and otherwiſe prepared with great pains. From the harbour of Gigulum Sound, on the ſouthern quarter of the iſland, a good carriage-road has been conducted half way to its northern end. This road has been formed chiefly at the expence of the principal proprietor; for, the converſion of the ſtatute-labour, at the rate of 1*s* 6*d* or 2*s* for each perſon, was inadequate to the ſpeedy execution of ſo conſiderable a work; and although 1*s* in the pound of valued rent be levied over the whole county of Argyle, by an Act of Parliament, 1774, for the improvement and extenſion of the high-ways; yet, till the high-ways on the main-land ſhall have been finiſhed, no part of this fund can be expended on the roads in Gigha. Between Gigha and the oppoſite coaſt of Cantyre, is a ferry with two boats, one at each landing-place. Good houſes begin to be built in this iſland; and its ſtrata of rocks afford quarries of ſtones, excellent for all the purpoſes of building, paving, &c.

Fat cows, ſent to market in the beginning of Winter, are ſold at from *L.* 3 : 15 to *L.* 5 : 5 each; milk-cows, at *L.* 4 or *L.* 5; lean cows, in May, at from *L.* 2 : 10 to *L.* 3; heifers, *L.* 1 : 10 to *L.* 2 : 12 : 6; ſtirks, or year-olds, 16*s* to *L.* 1 : 1; horſes, as they vary in age and qualities, are bought and ſold at from *L.* 3 : 10 to *L.* 9; a ſheep of the ſmall Highland breed, is ſold at 7*s* 8*d*; a lamb at 2*s* 6*d*, or 3*s*; a ſow, at from 16*s* to *L.* 1 : 4; a pig, for rearing, at from 1*s* 6*d* to 2*s* 6*d*; a gooſe, 1*s* 6*d*; a hen, 6*d*; a chicken, 3*d*; a dozen of eggs, 2*d*. The daily wage of a common labourer is 8*d*, Summer or Winter. A ploughman earns, by his ſervice, from December to the end of May, his board for the time, *L.* 2 : 10 of money wage, two pairs of ſhoes, the planting of two pecks of potatoes, and the ſowing of a pint of flax-ſeed. A man-ſervant, hired to ſerve from the end of Auguſt, till the cloſe of Harveſt, receives about *L.* 2 : 15 in money, a pair of ſhoes, and his board. A maid-ſervant obtains for the ſame time, *L.* 1 : 10, a pair of ſhoes, and her board. For a whole year's regular ſervice, the ordinary rate of wage to men-ſervants, is *L.* 4 : 10 with their board: To maid-ſervants, *L.* 2 : 10, with board, ſhoes, and flax-ſeed ſowing. Shephe boys have

have from 15*s* to *L.* 1. A taylor gets 8*d* a-day; a ſhoe-maker, 6*d* for the pair of ſhoes; both with board.

Whiſky, grain, cattle, fiſh, kelp, linen-yarn, are the articles which Gigha furniſhes for exportation.—(Statiſtical Account, &c.)

XXXVII. C A R A.

Natural State.

CARA lies about a mile and a half ſouth from Gigha, is near a mile long, and about half a mile in breadth. Its ſhores are high and rocky every where, except at the north eaſt end, at which is the only landing place. The Muill of Cara, at the ſouth end, is the higheſt part of the iſland; being a perpendicular rock, which, with the baſe on which it is elevated, riſes to the height of 167 feet. It is the haunt of numerous ſea-fowls; and two caves open under its ſides. At the north eaſt end, is a ſtore of rabbits; and the ſoil is a mixture of ſhells, ſand, and common mould. The reſt of the iſle is, at the ſurface, one continuous ſtratum of peat-earth, dry or marſhy. Wild ſpinage and water-creſſes grow in great plenty, as well in Cara, as in Gigha.

Cultivation.——This iſle is poſſeſſed by a ſingle tackſman and two cottagers, whoſe families contain in all 22 ſouls. All the cultivation is performed by a ſingle plough: and one cart is the only carriage in the iſle. The iſle is, for the greater part, in paſturage. When peats are cut for yearly fuel, the exterior turfs are carefully replaced, leſt the continual pairing away of the ſoil, ſhould at length leave the whole iſle nothing but one bare rock. The proprietor of Cara is Mr Macdonald of Leargie: It pays between *L.* 30 and *L.* 40 of yearly rent. Half a dozen of horſes, a ſcore of cows, with a certain quantity of ſheep, ſwine, rabbits, and poultry, are the living ſtock of the iſle. (Statiſtical Account of Scotland, vol. viii. 36, to 71.)

Gigulum.——Between Gigha and Cara,—and with reſpect to the former, ſo ſituate

as to form a harbour on its ſouth ſide,—is Gigulum, a ſmall uninhabited iſlet, having before it a range of breakers and large rocks.—(Statiſtical Account, &c.)

XXXVIII. ARRAN.

Natural State.

ARRAN lies in the mouth of the Frith of Clyde, directly oppoſite to Loch-Fyne, at the diſtance of five miles ſouth from the diſtrict of Cowal, in Argyleſhire, nearly ten miles ſouth-weſt from Bute; from Lochryan, in Galloway, about 15 leagues north-weſt. In length, this Iſland may be from 24 to 30 miles, extending between north and ſouth; its greateſt breadth, from eaſt to weſt, exceeds 14 miles. Its ſurface is almoſt every where rugged and mountainous; from the top of Goatfell, its higheſt mountain, nearly in the centre of the Iſland, the three Britiſh kingdoms, with the Iſle of Man, may be ſeen, at once. The ſoil is often broken by bare rocks; and in many places, overgrown with heath or ferns. Upon the ſea-coaſt, it is arable, and under partial cultivation. It has ſome good coal, and enough of excellent peat-earth. Its other more remarkable foſſils are freeſtone of a very fine grain, limeſtone, onyxes, rock-cryſtals, fuller's-earth. The air is pure, but cold; great quantities of rain and ſnow uſually fall in winter. The circumference is broken and indented by bays, which afford good anchorage and ſhelter to ſhipping; the Cock of Arran, a hill towards the northern extremity of the Iſland, is a famous ſea-mark. The Iſland is watered by many ſprings from which rivulets ariſe, and by 4 or 5 lakes, out of one of which, Loch-yerſa, a fine river flows. That bay which is covered by the Iſlet of Lamlaſh, is one of the beſt harbours in the world; acceſſible with every wind; and capable of holding 500 ſhips at once, with conveniency, and in ſafety. The lakes and rivers abound with ſalmon, trout, and other fiſhes common in freſh water: On the coaſt are caught cod, ling, whiting, herrings, and other ſea-fiſhes. That amphibious quadruped, the otter, is common in Arran. All the fowls common to the weſtern

Iſles

Iſles are found here, eſpecially the black-cock and grey hen, partridges, ptarmigans, &c. On the hills are red-deer.

Cultivation.——The population of Arran does not exceed 6000 ſouls. The animal ſtock on the farms, conſiſts of black-cattle, horſes, ſheep, goats, rabbits. Sheep and black-cattle are the ſtaple articles of farm-ſtock. Barley, oats, peaſe, flax, hemp, potatoes, are the common articles of crop. Of theſe, oats is that chiefly cultivated. About 1000 black-cattle may be annually exported to Ayrſhire, and other places. Barley alſo is exported to Greenock, Saltcoats, Irvine, Ayr, and Campbelton. The ſea-weeds on the ſhores, burnt into kelp, afford more than 100 tons for annual exportation. More than 60 boats are, every year, employed in the herring-fiſhery; the herrings taken in them, are, for the moſt part, ſold uncured on the circumjacent coaſts. The ferns have been, at times, burnt, and the aſhes carried away, by perſons who came in veſſels, from England, for the purpoſe. The inhabitants dwell in hamlets ſcattered over the Iſland. The more neceſſary mechanic arts are practiſed among them. Some yarn is ſpun, and a little coarſe cloth woven for common uſe. On the eaſt ſide of the Iſland, the inhabitants generally ſpeak Engliſh; thoſe on the weſt ſide, uſe the Gaelic. The Duke of Hamilton is proprietor of the greater part of the Iſland. He has a caſtle at Broadwick; and around it, conſiderable plantations of fir and other trees. —(Campbell's Survey, vol. i. Statiſtical Account, &c.)

XXXIX. BUTE.

Natural State.

THE Iſle of Bute gives its name to the ſhire within which it is comprehended. It lies in the entrance into the Frith of Clyde, at about 6 miles diſtance from the coaſt of Ayrſhire, and with only a narrow channel of half a mile dividing it from Cowal. Its longitudinal extent, from north to ſouth, is about 18 miles; its greateſt breadth, from eaſt to weſt, about 5 miles. But ſome large bays, entering deep into its area, render its line of circumference irregular. Except on the north-eaſt quarter,

it

it is rather hilly than mountainous; and even where higheſt, conſiderably lower than the contiguous mountains of Cowal. Copſes of underwood, with ſome taller trees intermingled, are to be ſeen in different parts of the Iſland; and round Mount-Stuart, the ſeat of the Earl of Bute, are extenſive plantations, with many fine, ſtately trees. Springs of freſh water are numerous through the Iſland; from ſome of theſe ariſe rivulets; and there are 6 or 8 ſmall lakes. The ſoil is, for the greater part, a light gravel or ſand. The level tracts along the ſhore, and among the baſes of the interior hills, are remarkably fertile. In the bowels of the earth are limeſtone, freeſtone, ſlate, and ſome indifferent coal. The climate is mild; ſpring forward; ſummer kindly; winter rather rainy than cold; and but little expoſed to froſts or ſnow; the longeſt day 17 hours. The coaſts abound with all thoſe fiſhes which are common among the Hebudian Iſles: In the lakes are pike, perch, and trout. On the hills are deer and roes; hares are alſo plentiful. Partridges, ſnipes, plovers, woodcocks, ducks, and teel, are common.

Cultivation.——The Iſland of Bute contains about 4750 inhabitants; of whom the greater part dwell in the town of Rothſay. Many of theſe find their chief employment in the herring-fiſhery. The number of the cattle has not been lately reckoned. The greater part of the lands are divided and incloſed with ditches and hedges. Land incloſed and under cultivation, is let at 10*s* or 15*s* an acre; *outfield* ground, at 3*s*, or 3*s* and 6*d*, an acre. Oats, barley, turnips, rye-graſs, clover, are the articles of crop. Nearly one half of the rents is paid from the ſale of barley; the other half, from oats and cattle. For the ſpace of ſeveral years, the average price of barley has been from 18*s*, to *L*. 1. a boll: Oats, for a ſeries of 7 years, have been ſold at, from 14*s*, to 16*s*, a boll. Clover and rye-graſs are ſold at, from 4*s* to 5*s*, a truſs, of 15 Engliſh ſtone. The farms are of ſuch an extent, as to pay commonly from *L*. 30. to *L*. 60. of yearly rent. Potatoes are a principal article of crop; and, with herrings, form, for three quarters of the year, the beſt part of the food of the inhabitants of the Iſland. The average price of oat-meal has been, for 7 years, from 16*s*, to 18*s*, a boll, of 9 ſtone. Every farmer uſes one or more carts, according to the extent of

his

his farm. The ancient breed of horſes has been improved, by croſſing, to a ſize and ſtrength more ſuitable for the draught. The preparing of peats for fuel, and the allurements of the fiſhery, are found to be not a little unfavourable, in ſome reſpects, to the advancement of the Agriculture of Bute. The yearly wages to men-ſervants, are, from *L.* 6. to *L.* 8. to women-ſervants, from *L.* 3. to *L.* 4. Day-labourers have from 6*d* to 10*d*, a day. The cotton-manufacture has been tried in the town of Rotheſay. A very conſiderable number of open boats and decked veſſels, for the fiſhing, belong to this Iſland. As Bute lies contiguous to the richeſt and moſt populous diſtricts in the weſt of Scotland; its exports are conveyed thither, and its imports received thence; and the prices of all things in this Iſle are regulated by the prices paid or received at Greenock or Largs on the main-land.—(Campbell's Survey, i. 574. Statiſtical Account, i. 301, to 315.)

XL. CUMBRA-MORE.

CUMBRA-MORE lying nearly 5 miles eaſt from Bute, and at about the ſame diſtance ſouth from Cowal, is nearly 9 miles in circumference; level; well watered; fertile; inhabited by about 400 ſouls; producing grain, hemp, flax, and timber of various ſorts; the property partly of the Earl of Bute, partly of the Earl of Glaſgow.—(Campbell's Survey; i. 580.)

XLI. CUMBRA-BEG.

CUMBRA-BEG lies about a mile ſouth-weſt from Cumbra-more; is about a mile in circumference; rugged and hilly; was once ſtocked with deer; but is now poſſeſſed by two families who pay their rents in rabbit-ſkins. It is the property of the Earl of Eglinton.—(Campbell's Survey; i. 581.)

XLII. INCH-MARNOCH.

INCH-MARNOCH, about half a league weſt from Bute, half a league ſouth from Cowal, and two leagues eaſt from Arran, is ſomewhat larger than Cumbra-beg; beautifully diverſified, on its ſurface, with riſing and low grounds; bearing trees and corn, and affording rich paſture; once a ſeat of the Keldees; now the property of Lord Bute.—(Campbell's ſurvey; i. 581.)

XLIII. AILSA.

AILSA, a conical rock, covered on the ſummit, with heath and graſs, is ſituate in the ſame Frith of Clyde; is uninhabited; but feeds rabbits and a few goats, and affords refuge to an immenſe number of ſea-fowls. It is the property of the Earl of Caſſilis; and is held by tenants, at the rent of *L.* 25. a year.—(Statiſtical Account, i. 104.)

XLIV. SCARBA.

SCARBA, which, as more northern than ſeveral of theſe Iſlands laſt deſcribed, might more properly have obtained a prior place, is ſeparated on the ſouth, from the Iſle of Jura, by the narrow ſound of Cor-y-bhrechan, ſomewhat more than a mile in breadth. It is rocky and mountainous; of a wild, ſavage aſpect; of a circular form; about 3 miles in diameter; divided into 2 farms, and inhabited by about 50 ſouls.—(Campbell's Survey, i. 596.—Statiſtical Account, &c.)

XLV. KERERAY.

XLV. KERERAY.

KERERAY is a ſmall Iſle, contiguous to the town of Oban in Lorn; 3 miles in length; the property of Macdougal of Macdougal, and of Lord Breadalbane; and containing ſuch a number of inhabitants, that the eſtabliſhment of a charity-ſchool in the Iſland has been thought neceſſary for the education of their children.—(Statiſtical Account, vol. xi. No 8, &c.)

XLVI. LUNGA.

LUNGA is an Iſlet, contiguous to Jura; 2 miles in length, half a mile broad; and inhabited by 29 ſouls.

XLVII. BALNAHUAIGH AND ESDAILE.

BALNAHUAIGH AND ESDAILE, are Iſlets remarkable for their ſlate quarries; the quarries of Balnahuaigh, wrought by 30 men; the ſlates of Eſdaile, very generally uſed at Glaſgow, and in the country around that city.—(Statiſtical Account, &c.)

BESIDE theſe Iſles, here enumerated and deſcribed, as accurately as I have found to be eaſily poſſible, from the materials in my hands: the Hebudæ comprehend a number of other Iſlets, ſome of them perhaps inhabited; others uninhabited by men, but feeding domeſticated animals; and others, bare rocks haunted only by ſea-fowls; concerning which I have not yet been able to obtain any information worthy to be here detailed.

SECTION

SECTION III.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE FACTS IN THE PRECEDING SECTIONS.

THIS Section is intended to recapitulate, and to exhibit in general claſſes, for the more eaſy comprehenſion and compariſon of the reader, all thoſe facts relating to the direct and primary object of the preſent Eſſay, which have been more looſely detailed in the ſections preceding. The particulars of the *natural ſtate* of theſe Iſles muſt firſt be enumerated, that the enumeration of thoſe of *its cultivation* may be clearly underſtood.

I. EXTENT.

The Extent of all the Hebudæ taken together, may be eſtimated at more than 6000 ſquare miles. Scotland, in its whole extent, exceeds not 8 times this number of ſquare miles: they are equal to an 18th part of the whole extent of England: the area of Ireland is only ſomewhat more than 7 times as large: More than one or two of theſe Iſles are ſingly equal, in extent, to almoſt any of the ſecondary counties, in either of the two grand diviſions of Great Britain. Of theſe 6000 miles, one 6th part may be eſtimated to be, at the ſurface, bare rock or ſand: moraſſes and lakes, as it ſhould ſeem, occupy at leaſt another 6th part; 2-6th parts may be moor, or hilly ground, from poverty of ſoil, or from diſadvantages of poſition, hardly ſuſceptible of cultivation; 3-12ths may be arable ground, not yet broken up by the plough; and at leaſt 1-12th, actually under preſent culture. Of the ground, again, that is wrought with the ſpade or the plough, about one half may be ordinarily appropriated to garden-herbs, hemp, flax, barley, and potatoes; while the other half is annually ſown with oats.

II. COASTS.

II. Coasts.

The vaſt extent of Coast, which the diviſion of an area of 6000 ſquare miles, into ſo many iſlands, neceſſarily gives, may be calculated without exaggeration to add to the means of accomodation and ſuſtenance for men, which the land affords, others equal to thoſe derived from the whole ground in tillage, or to the uſeful produce of 500 ſquare miles. In this eſtimate of the value of the coaſts, I include only the fiſhes, amphibious animals, and ſea-fowls which are at preſent actually taken, and uſed by the Hebudians. The ſea-weeds and kelp yield but a poor compenſation for the barrenneſs of the rocks and ſands, among which they grow. The extenſion of the fiſheries, and the eſtabliſhment of new manufactures of ſalt, ſoap, and oil, exiſting, as yet, only in poſſibility, cannot be certainly eſtimated, in an account of the value of the coaſts of theſe iſles. The advantages which they enjoy, in being acceſſible to navigation, are ſcarcely adequate to the diſadvantages of being ſcattered in narrow tracts, through a northern ſea, remote from thoſe opulent countries among which the intercourſe of traffic is the moſt frequent, amidſt eddies and ſhallows, and expoſed to ever-varying winds. Yet, it is to be obſerved, that the bays and harbours are ſufficiently numerous and convenient, to accommodate any ſhipping that may be employed, whether in the mutual intercourſe of theſe Iſlanders, or in their foreign trade.

III. Fossils.

These iſlands are rich in valuable Fossils; and it is probable, that the reſearches of ſkilful mineralogiſts might diſcover many more, which ſtill remain unknown.—The *marble* of Tirey is equally beautiful and abundant: Why ſhould it not be uſed for ſculpture and architectural decoration, through the Hebudæ, and all Scotland, in Ireland, and at leaſt along the weſtern coaſt of England?—The *ſlates* of Esdaile and Balnahuaigh are already uſed in the weſtern parts of Scotland, and in the Hebudæ, whenever ſlates are employed: May they not be quarried, and diſpoſed of with ſufficient advantage, in much larger quantities? Might it not be advantageous to uſe ſuch ſlates every where, inſtead of thoſe materials of thatching, which would be better re-

ſerved for winter-forage to the cattle?—*Limeſtone* is plentiful among theſe iſlands; it may be exported; it may be uſefully employed at home, for cement, in a much greater quantity than at preſent; it may be happily converted into manure for ſoils which are leſs ſubject to be fertilized by ſea-ware, or where ſea-ware cannot be conveniently obtained. It appears probable, that mineralogical reſearches may diſcover rich veins of *metallic ores*, among the ſtrata of rocks, in theſe iſles; but unleſs ſome beds of *pit-coal* ſhall be alſo diſcovered, *mines* can never be very profitably wrought here. *Peat-earth* is ſufficiently plentiful in many, although not in all of theſe iſles; but, even where it moſt abounds, *peats* are an enormouſly expenſive, and very uncertain article of fuel. The SOILS are—*Gravel*, or ſtone comminuted almoſt into earth without the excluſive action of water, intermixed with ſome ſmall portion of ſtone abſolutely pulverized, and with a portion, ſtill ſmaller, of vegetable earth:—*Sand*, or ſtone, comminuted, leſs entirely than in gravel, and chiefly by the action of water, with leſs of pulverized ſtone, and ſcarcely any vegetable earth:—*Clay*, a pure earth, but in its native ſtate, often contaminated with acids, oils, vegetable matters, and other ſubſtances:—*Peat-earth*, above mentioned, which has for its baſis, the reſiduum chiefly of ligneous vegetables, yet not without ſome mixture of that of the herbaceous; and among theſe matters, both ligneous and herbaceous vegetables in a ſtate only of partial decay, while the reſins, oils, and ſalts of vegetables, infuſed through the maſs, with the water in which the whole is immerſed, concur to complete its peculiar character:—*Loam*, a mixture of the ſimpler ſoils, with manure, moiſture, and vegetative earth, commonly the effect of culture, ancient or recent. Of theſe ſoils, are many varieties, many different modifications. More than half the arable land in the Hebudæ, is of a *ſandy* or *gravelly* ſoil. The reſt is a modification of *peat-earth*, *loam* of ſeveral diverſities, or *clay*.

IV. CLIMATE.

THE general facts concerning the CLIMATE of theſe iſles, ought, in ſtrict propriety of arrangement, to have been introduced immediately before the preceding article; but have been inadvertently left for this place.—Its peculiar character is determined by the

the poſition of the Hebudæ in a northern latitude; their diſperſion in ſuch a multitude of parts; their expoſure to the blaſts which iſſue from the frozen Pole, and the winds that ſweep the Atlantic; their being imperfectly ſheltered on the north-eaſt, the eaſt, the ſouth-eaſt, the ſouth, and the ſouth-weſt; by Scandinavia and Ruſſia, the iſles of Orkney and Shetland, the main-land of Scotland and Ireland; and by their being iſlands, not portions of a continent. The year is, therefore, divided rather into a wet ſeaſon and a dry, than into Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter. The energy of vegetation is hardly renewed till the rains and blaſting winds have ceaſed in April. The heat is often torrid; vegetation, rapid; the ſky, with little variation, ſerene; the winds neither too violent, nor too fickle, till the month of Auguſt have partly paſſed. By that time, the rains begin to fall, the winds ariſe, and both prevail, almoſt inceſſantly, till the enſuing March have nearly expired. Yet, during this continuance of wind and rain, no heavy falls of ſnow, and no extreme ſeverity of froſt, are here known. Inſular diſpoſition mitigates, to theſe iſles, the inclemency of a period in the year which latitude and expoſure would otherwiſe render much more diſtreſsful to their inhabitants. Only vegetables which ſpring rapidly, and ripen early, can be profitably cultivated as articles of crop; flax, hemp, potatoes, barley, appear to anſwer reaſonably well; but, even black oats, although hardier, and not later in ripening than the white, are ſeldom ripe when it becomes neceſſary to cut them down, and can ſcarcely ever be gathered in, without having been conſiderably damaged by the winds and rains, in the ſhock, or on the roots. The ſheep and black cattle, and horſes, are *ſtinted* in their growth by the ſcantineſs of forage, which ſo long a period of inclement weather neceſſarily produces, and are ſubjected to thoſe diſeaſes which animals contract by expoſure to ſtorms, and to a humid chilling atmoſphere.

V. Fresh Water.

As to the *quantity* and the *diſtribution* of the Fresh Water in theſe iſles; the ſprings are numerous and copious in every iſle that has any conſiderable inequalities of ſurface. The number of the lakes in all the iſles may be about 200. A rivulet flows from almoſt every ſpring. The narrowneſs of moſt of the iſles affords not a length of

courſe

courſe ſufficient for the formation of large rivers. But there are many rapid torrents: and in the greater iſles, are ſtreams which may vie with the ſecondary rivers on the main-land. Vaſt quantities of water are diffuſed over the moraſſes. Some ſprings are mineralized by ſulphur, iron, or other matters. Almoſt every iſle poſſeſſes the utmoſt abundance of freſh water, conveniently diſtributed. There appears to be no where any very inconvenient want of water for the purpoſes of agriculture, or of domeſtic œconomy. Several of the lakes and marſhes might be advantageouſly drained. Embankments might in divers places be profitable to defend adjacent meadows, and fields from the flooding of the ſtreams. Artificial irrigation may be eaſily employed to fertilize meadows, paſture-grounds, and corn-fields. Bridges ought to be very induſtriouſly thrown over every river, and every rivulet, which, although ſmall, may be liable to ſwell ſuddenly.

VI. VEGETABLES.

THE native VEGETABLES of theſe iſles, have not been as yet examined or enumerated with ſufficient care. Heath, bog-galls, broom, and furze, appear to be almoſt the only ſhrubs; nor are the two latter in great plenty. Timber-trees are very ſcarce; although oaks, birches, firs, pines, aſhes, and ſome planes, with hazels, thorns, and a few other ſpecies between the tree and the ſhrub, grow here and there, either in narrow woods, or ſcattered ſingly, or in clumps or copſes. The graſſes are, for the moſt part, thoſe common on the main-land of Scotland. The ſea-weeds, ſo valuable whether for kelp or manure, are thoſe common at leaſt on all the Britiſh ſhores; they are impregnated, as they grow, with thoſe ſalts, on which their utility depends. It is to be wiſhed that diligent botanical reſearch were employed to diſcover, whether there be not graſſes, natives, which, as naturally ſuited to the ſoil and climate, while they are at the ſame time ſufficiently tender, nouriſhing, and luxuriant in growth, might, with more advantage than any foreign graſſes, be here cultivated for paſturage and forage. Might not furze, and, at leaſt, ſome of the hardier *underwoods* be ſcattered with advantage over ſome ſpots of a country, ſo bare, bleak, unincloſed, and unſheltered, as

theſe

theſe iſles, for the greater part are? Have there been anciently natural foreſts in the Hebudæ; and are theſe not to be renewed by human induſtry?

VII. Fishes.

Fishes are in no ſeas more plentiful than around and among theſe Iſles. On the banks near *St. Kilda*, on the coaſts of the *Lewis* and *Harris Iſles*, on the ſhores of *Sky*, and onwards to the very mouth of the *Clyde*, that moſt uſeful ſpecies of ſea-fiſhes, the *herring*, paſs every year in the moſt prodigious ſhoals. The banks, bays, and ſhallows, are convenient ſtations, on which the fiſhermen intercept them. Whether for immediate uſe, or for ſale, they are very valuable to the Hebudians. Cuddies, lythe, ling, cod, mackerel, ſkate, are wonderfully abundant in theſe ſeas. The whale, and the grampus, purſue the ſhoals of herrings, and the other ſmall fiſhes into the Hebudian ſtreights. Seals are here very numerous. Almoſt every ſpecies of ſhell-fiſhes are plentiful on the ſhores of theſe iſles, and on the interjacent banks. Salmon, pike, and trouts of every variety abound in the lakes and ſtreams. Theſe fiſhes afford at preſent, a large ſhare of the food and exports of the Hebudians; and the fiſheries may be here extended, ſo as to give an income of annual wealth, many times as great as that which they now yield.

VIII. Wild Fowls and Quadrupeds.

The wild Fowls of theſe iſles are extremely numerous; eagles, gulls, wild geeſe, and a multitude of tribes of ſea-fowls allied to the two laſt ſpecies, abound over all the iſles. In the larger Hebudæ, are the moor-fowls common in the north of Scotland. Many birds of paſſage frequent more or fewer of theſe iſles. The ſea-fowls are a valuable prey, on account of fleſh or feathers, to the inhabitants of ſeveral of theſe iſles, particularly St Kilda. Foxes, weaſels, mice, rats, with ſome hares, are almoſt the only *quadrupeds* of theſe iſles, not more or leſs under the care of man. The foxes may probably be ſoon exterminated. The reptiles of the Hebudæ are few; and, excepting perhaps the adder, not formidable. The inſects have hardly yet obtained the attention of the naturaliſt.

IX. Population.

Hitherto this ſection has been occupied with the claſſification and general enumeration of thoſe things in the Hebudian iſles, which exiſt, and have exiſted, independent of the care and labour of man. Man, and his works, as they are here exhibited, come next under our review. The whole number of ſouls, compoſing the Population of theſe iſles, may be about 66,000, or 11 for every ſquare mile. Of theſe by far the greater part are cottagers and farm-ſervants; the men,—ſhepherds, huſbandmen, fiſhermen, by turns, as their labours are varied in the advancing courſe of the year; the women ſharing almoſt all the ſame toils. The claſs next after *thoſe*, the moſt numerous, are *their* immediate maſters; the *proprietors* of the lands, the tackſmen, and thoſe few farmers who occupy a middle rank between the tackſmen and the cottagers. Artiſans, merchants, and inn-keepers, may be comprehended in a third claſs, leſs numerous than either of the two former. The pariſh-miniſters, miſſionaries, ſchool-maſters, and ſurgeons, make up a fourth claſs, the leaſt numerous of all. Two-fifths of the whole inhabitants of the Hebudæ, may be under 20 years of age; the reſt from 20 to 90. The numbers of the men and of the women, are, on the whole, nearly equal.

X. Domesticated Animals.

The firſt and ſimpleſt thing in the rural œconomy of the Hebudians, is, their management of Animals, either wholly, or, at leaſt, in ſome degree, Domesticated.

Game.—Thoſe animals have the ſmalleſt portion of man's care, and are in the loweſt degree of domeſtication, which he ſimply encourages to breed, and reſerves for his own prey. Of ſuch there are not in the Hebudæ many ſpecies. *Hares* commonly fall under this deſcription; but, of theſe, here are few; whether it be, that they have not been careſully introduced, or that hares thrive only where they can find enough of corn and tender graſs to crop: were they more numerous, they could not be extremely troubleſome to the farmer, in the preſent low ſtate of Hebudian agriculture.

Roes

Roes and *red-deer*, are ſufficiently numerous in ſeveral of theſe iſles. The hill is the natural haunt of the roe; the foreſt rather of the ſtag; both are extremely hoſtile to all cultivation. But, in the preſent ſtate of the Hebudæ, if they be not encouraged to multiply, it would at leaſt be unwiſe, ſuddenly to exterminate them. Perhaps as the lands of theſe iſles ſhall be further ſubdivided, and better incloſed, the deer may be baniſhed from all parts, except where ſome of the more conſiderable proprietors ſhall be induced to form parks for their confinement and maintenance. *Rabbits* are very plentiful in many of theſe iſles; their warrens are in the ſandy ſoil, on the ſhore; they thrive and multiply amazingly; and although they cannot be readily brought to ſale, at an advantageous market; they form however an agreeable part of the freſh animal food of the Hebudians.

Horſes, cows, ſheep, and goats.——Horſes, cows and oxen, ſheep, goats, with ſome few *aſſes* and *mules* are the animal farm-ſtock of the Hebudæ. The horſes are, for the moſt part, the poſterity of a race, anciently introduced; originally not large; and which, being, for a ſeries of generations, ſcantily fed, and expoſed to the ſeverities of an ungenial climate, have dwindled down to a petty ſize, at which they are fitter for being the playthings of children, than for the burthen or the draught: They are however hardy and wonderfully patient of fatigue. The breed ought to be croſſed through all theſe Iſles, wherever agricultural improvements are to be proſecuted with any diligence. *Jack-aſſes* have been imported into *Harris*; and *mules* reared; but, I know not in what mules can excel the native horſes of theſe Iſles, whether for journeying, or for the draught. In all theſe Iſles, there may be about 30,000 head of black-cattle. One-fourth of this number, annually exported, brings in the greater part of the money with which the rents are paid. The breed of theſe appears to have been oftener croſſed, than that of the horſes. They are a mixed race; but ſmall; in general, hardy; capable of being fattened to a great weight; not raw-boned, like the Iriſh cattle; affording beef of the beſt taſte and flavour, and hides very ſuitable for the purpoſes of the tanner. Neither horſes nor black-cattle are, in the Hebudæ, greatly indebted to the care of their owners. The horſes are rarely ſhod: ſummer

and winter, they are left to wander wild on the hills, unleſs when their labour is immediately wanted; when employed for carriage, or in the plough, they are ſcantily fed, careleſsly dreſſed, and as careleſsly littered, in the ſtable. It ſhould have been mentioned earlier, that conſiderable numbers of theſe ſmall horſes are every year, exported to the Lowlands of Scotland, and into England, where they are ſold with ſufficient profit. All the black-cattle, except the milk-cows and calves, are left, night and day, in the fields, through the whole year. The only forage provided for them, conſiſts of ſtraw, and ſome coarſe hay, too often—either withered ſo as to be little nouriſhing, or half-rotten. The calves are ſuckled at the udder for a ſufficient length of time. Neither butter nor cheeſe appears to be made in theſe Iſles, with ſuch care, or in ſuch quantities, as circumſtances ſeem to encourage. The attention of theſe Iſlanders appears to be, at preſent, very properly turned to the improvement of the breed of their black-cattle, and of their modes of managing them. The *ſheep* of the Hebudæ are not more numerous than the black-cattle: They are alſo a mixed race; in ſome Iſles, as it ſhould ſeem, allied to the fine-wooled ſheep of Shetland; but more commonly of the breed of Galloway, and of the hills in Clydeſdale. The Hebudian management of ſheep is in few inſtances ſkilful. Some Iſles are too level and unſheltered, for the maintenance of ſheep. In others, the keeping of ſheep has been thought likely to occaſion the entire deſtruction of the herbage and ſoil. Theſe, and probably other cauſes, have hindered ſheep from becoming the chief article of living farm-ſtock, in the Hebudæ. Into ſome Iſles, it would be improper to introduce any additional number of ſheep; for others, ſheep appear to be the moſt ſuitable ſpecies of animal farm-ſtock. In places ſo remote from a ready market, for mutton, the wool ought to be the chief object of attention to the farmer who feeds flocks of ſheep. Of the wool of the Hebudian ſheep, a great part is wrought up for the common uſe of the inhabitants. Some part may be exported to Ayrſhire and other places. The number of the goats is conſiderable. For ſome of the wild, rocky hills, they are a proper ſtock. Their hides, hair, horns, carcaſes, milk, might be ſufficiently profitable, at a proper market.

Swine,

Swine, and Poultry.——The reſt of the domeſticated animals of theſe Iſles, are *ſwine, geeſe, the common hen*, with thoſe two houſhold ſervants, the *dog* and the *cat*. *Swine* have been domeſtic in the Hebudæ, ſince the days of St Columba. Several of the Iſlets bear names, implying, that they were anciently appropriated to the feeding of ſwine. Theſe animals are ſtill very generally fed here, by cottagers, as well as by farmers. The prevalence of potatoes, as an article of crop, has contributed greatly to encourage the breeding of ſwine. The breed are ſmall; their pork, uncommonly delicate; the bacon, ſuperior to any which is cured in the lowlands of Scotland, or in England. *Geeſe* are very plentiful in theſe Iſlands: a flock is kept about every gentleman's or farmer's houſe: they are half-wild; frequenting the lakes, rivers, and ſhores, and living much upon fiſh. *Dunghill-fowls* are plentiful. Every cottager has his hens, eggs, and chickens. *Pigeons* are neither abſolutely unknown, nor yet common. I know not, that the Hebudian *dogs* are equally ſagacious as thoſe of Clydeſdale.

XI. Agriculture.

From the opening of the ground, to the reaping of the grain.——Agriculture has been hitherto only a ſecondary object in the Rural Œconomy of the Hebudians. Their agriculture conſiſts in ſpreading upon ley-ground ſea-weeds, dung, or marle; breaking it up with the plough, or the crooked ſpade; ſowing it with barley or oats, or planting on it potatoes, in April or in the beginning of May; cutting down, and gathering in their crop, in September; and renewing the ſame annual ſeries of labours, on the ſame field, without other variation of the ſpecies of crop, than from potatoes or barley to oats, till the ſoil exhauſted under ſuch management, will no longer yield any thing like an adequate return for rent, ſeed, and labour. The want of roads, carts, and draught-horſes for the conveyance of the manure to the field; the uſe of the old Scottiſh plough, aukward, clumſy, ill-ſuited alike for piercing the turf and for turning over the layer of earth, and requiring often the line of the furrow to be previouſly cut with the *riſtle*; the employment often of no fewer

than ſeven horſes, and four or five perſons in opening up the ſame field with a ſingle plough, preceded by a riſtle; the aukward mode in which the operation of harrowing is performed; the almoſt conſtant unfavourableneſs of the harveſts for the ripening, the reaping, and the ingathering of the crops;—All theſe circumſtances together render the native black-oats of theſe Iſles, even in the moſt fruitful years, an exceeding dear purchaſe to thoſe who raiſe them. In the ſouthern Hebudæ, eſpecially in *Bute*, the cultivation is more ſkilful, and the climate more kind. Barley ſeems to be, at leaſt at preſent, a grain more proper than oats, for cultivation under the climate of theſe Iſles. Potatoes are evidently profitable above every other article of crop. It would be difficult to calculate, how much the introduction of this plant into the Hebudæ, has contributed to the improvement of the arable lands of theſe Iſles, and to the bettering of the condition of their poorer inhabitants. Flax and hemp thrive ſufficiently under this climate; and in the preſent ſtate of their culture, are not unſuitable articles of crop.

From the Reaping to the Preparation of the Grain for the Mouth.——The corn, when gathered in from the field, is built up in *mows*, in the barns,—or in *ſtacks*, in the barn-yard. The ſtacks are thatched with ſtraw, with *ling*, a ſpecies of bog-graſs, or with heath. The barns have not always ſuch apertures in the walls, as ſeem to be neceſſary to afford due acceſs of air to corn often heaped together, before it can have been properly dried. The proceſs of *threſhing* is performed here, as in other places; but, it ſhould ſeem, leſs diligently than in diſtricts where a more vigorous induſtry has been excited. Neither the *fanners*, nor the *threſhing-machine* have been yet introduced among the Hebudian huſbandmen. *Mills* are rare, in compariſon with the extent of the diſtricts. Even the oppreſſion of *thirlage* would be leſs injurious to huſbandry, than the waſte of labour, of grain, and of ſtraw, in the practice of grinding with *Querns*, too common in theſe Iſles.

Meadows, and Hay.——The management of *meadows* is negligent and unſkilful. Rarely are they incloſed. They are cleared from ſtones, and reſerved from the com-

mon

mon paſture-grounds. No particular graſſes, whether native or foreign, are cultivated from the ſeed, in the general practice of the country. Only milk-cows, calves, heifers and oxen in winter, and horſes when employed in labour, are fed with hay. The hay is often withered, in drying it, or perhaps heaped together, before being dry, and then ſoon heated to that fermentation in which putrefaction commences. It is a mixture of a variety of graſſes, many of which are coarſe, and little ſucculent.

Improvements tried in Agriculture.——Yet, attempts have been here and there made, to abridge the labour of Hebudian huſbandry, and give it a better direction; to improve more happily, and keep up unwaſted, the fertility of the ſoil; and to promote the cultivation of more profitable ſpecies of crop. In *Bute*, the huſbandry is not leſs ſkilful than in the beſt cultivated diſtricts in Scotland. In ſome other of the ſouthern Hebudæ, many improvements have been tried with encouraging ſucceſs. A breed of horſes fitter for the draught, than the ſmall native race, have been introduced into ſome. Lime and marle have been judiciouſly laid upon the land in others. The conduct of Mr *Campbell* of *Shawfield*, appears to promiſe rapid improvement to the agriculture of *Ilay*. The culture of turnips has been attempted in ſome iſles with ſufficient ſucceſs, and ſufficient profit. A mixture of clover and rye-graſs has begun to be cultivated in ſmall fields, by many of the *gentlemen* in the Hebudæ. Moraſſes have been drained; and rich meadows, and fertile corn-fields thus gained from them. Shells and ſleech from the ſea-ſhore have been laid for manure, in ſome inſtances, upon the lands, and have not failed to fertilize them. Something like a rotation of *green* and *white* crops, ſuch as may render the ground ever largely productive, yet preſerve it ſtill inexhauſted, has been partially tried by ſome Hebudian improvers. Above all, the continually increaſing cultivation of potatoes has contributed to bring much ground under tillage, which might otherwiſe have lain ſtill uncultivated.

Gardens.——The gardens of the peaſantry and gentry, in theſe iſles, are *manured* with aſhes, with the dung of horſes and cows, with lime, marle, or ſea-weeds. Cabbage,

bage, *green-kail*, carrots, onions, beans, peaſe, are the common pot-herbs. Fruit-bearing ſhrubs have been planted, have thriven, and have proved fertile. But, fruit-trees have been generally ſtunted and barren.

XII. Artificial Diviſions, and Lines of Communication.

Artificial Diviſions of the territory of theſe iſles, or Lines of Communication between their different parts, are comparatively few and imperfect. The farms are divided from one another only by looſe *ſtone-dykes*, conſiſting each, unleſs at the foundation, but of a *ſingle-wall*, from 3 to 6 feet high, and without mortar. Theſe *dykes* will confine black cattle, but ſeldom horſes or ſheep. They are often broken down in many places. In ſome diſtricts, ſuch *march-dykes* have never been built. In others, only the veſtiges of them remain.—The *ſub-diviſions* in a farm are a rude *dyke* or fence, ſeparating the meadow and land under tillage, from the *hill* or *outfield* part of the farm; ſome other rude *dykes* or fences incloſing particular fields of the arable ground and meadow; as alſo a fence, not ſtronger or more regular, round the kitchen-garden; and perhaps one or two dykes ſubdividing the *hill* part of the farm, in order to keep different claſſes of the cattle, ſeparate while they feed. Many farms are divided from one another only by natural boundaries. The ſub-diviſions are often leſs numerous and more ſufficient than thoſe above-mentioned. Ditches and hedges, ſunk fences, *dry double walls* of ſufficient ſtrength and height—have been formed, in ſome rare inſtances, by ſome of the *gentlemen*, for the incloſure or decoration of ſome ſmall ſpots of ground, adjacent to their houſes; but, there appears no probability, that ſuch improvements can, within any given time, be extended over theſe iſles.

Roads.——The *lines* for mutual *communication* are not in a better ſtate, in theſe iſles, than the *artificial diviſions* of the territory. The *roads* are, for the greater part, only foot-paths; at beſt, they are but ſuch as have been beaten out by the trampling of horſes, as well as of men; covered with looſe ſtones; broken by gullies often impaſſable, and by rocks, which can hardly be ſurmounted; climbing up ſteep hills, and deſcending abruptly into hollows, without choice of direction.

Bridges.——

Bridges.——Few *bridges* have been built. The *ſtatute-labour*, exacted in an uncertain and irregular manner, is ſufficient merely to clear, or repair ſlightly at times, ſome of the more neceſſary roads, not to improve and multiply them in a degree greatly beneficial to the country. In ſome iſles, indeed, bridges have been thrown over many of the larger ſtreams; and carriage-roads, of a ſuitable conſtruction, have been begun; but at the expence chiefly of individuals, or upon contributions of the *gentlemen*, not by the general effort of the whole inhabitants. In regions ſo uninclоſed, and ſo thinly inhabited, it were vain to attempt raiſing money for roads and bridges, by tolls.

Ferries.——The *ferries* are too few, and uncertain in their paſſage. Between ſeveral iſles contiguous to the main-land, and the neareſt places for landing, on the ſhores of the main-land, ferry-boats go and return, with due frequency of paſſage. But thoſe which are more remote, have, for the moſt part, only a ſecondary intercourſe with the main-land, and that occaſional, or interrupted, from time to time, by conſiderable intervals. Among the various iſles, taken by themſelves, and independent of any connection with the main-land, the intercourſe by regular ferries, is yet more uncertain. There is, in ſhort, no general ſyſtem of regular intercourſe by ferry-boats, uniting all theſe iſles together, and making them thus to contribute, with due efficacy, to one another's advantage.

XIII. Institutions and Customs.

The Institutions and Customs of theſe iſles, affecting the agricultural induſtry of their inhabitants, are ſurely ſuſceptible of conſiderable improvement. Here yet exiſts a mimic feodiſm, by conſidering which, a perſon may acquire a very clear notion of what the feudal eſtabliſhments of Europe were in their origin. The great proprietors in theſe iſles, are to be compared to the ſovereigns of the feudal monarchies; the tackſmen to their great vaſſals; the town-ſhips of a number of petty farmers, occupying all together, only the ſame extent of land, as a ſingle tackſman,—to the free burghs, at their firſt riſe; the petty proprietors independent in tenure, but by

local ſituation, and narrowneſs of domains, neceſſarily dependent on their powerful neighbours,—to the allodial land-holders in the remoter hiſtory of modern Europe. While the proprietors of theſe iſles, enjoyed hereditary juriſdiction, each over the inhabitants of his own domains; and while they reſiſted or evaded every exertion of ſovereign authority over them, which was not fully agreeable to themſelves; Feodiſm then reigned in theſe iſles, in all its primary rudeneſs, force, and ſimplicity. By the eſtabliſhment of orderly tranquillity among the clans, and the abolition of the hereditary juriſdictions, it has been, in part, overthrown, and its ſpirit greatly mitigated. But the *tackſmen*, and a ſort of *aſcriptio glebæ* of the *peaſantry*, ſtill remain.

Lairds and Tackſmen.—Till within theſe laſt 30 years, the property belonged almoſt excluſively to the *lairds* and the *tackſmen*; the lands, to the former; the animal-ſtock, chiefly to the latter. The want of varied induſtry and enjoyment, neceſſarily left even moveable property, to remain long in thoſe hands into which it had fallen: and the ſimplicity of the known modes of life, gave the great proprietors no choice of means to provide for their younger children, but that of making them tackſmen. Thus was formed a claſs of men, between the lairds andthe peaſants; of the blood of the former, and poſſeſſing almoſt all the moveable ſtock on the lands; while to the peaſantry nothing remained, but their hands and their labour. A middle order thus imperceptibly eſtabliſhed between the peaſants and their lairds, became to the former, maſters and protectors, to whom they could addreſs themſelves with familiarity and confidence, to the latter, companions and firſt ſervants. To both they were uſeful. A tackſman came to conſider his poſſeſſions, as being little leſs ſecurely the inheritance of his family, than of that of the landlord from whom he held them. But the peaſants have begun to be elevated; and the tackſmen to be reduced to *their* level. The farms begin to be reduced to ſuch an extent, that a tenant may manage all the land he occupies, with the help of the children and ſervants of his family, and without ſubſetting. A peaſant may hope to acquire ſtock ſufficient for one of theſe reduced farms; although he could never aſpire to become tackſman of a large eſtate. The families of the ancient tackſmen may poſſibly be diſſatisfied, and uſe many ſpecious reaſons to prove

that

that to be bad policy, which exalts the peaſantry to a competition with them in induſtry. But, this policy ariſes from cauſes in the progreſs of ſocial life in theſe iſles, more general and ultimate than the humour of this or that landlord: Eventually it will greatly improve the common condition of all the Hebudians.

Peaſantry.——The hardſhips of the peaſantry appear to ariſe merely from diſadvantages of local ſituation, not from any ſyſtematic oppreſſion of their landlords. They are ignorant of all modes of life and induſtry, except their own; confined in iſles diſtant from thoſe ſcenes in which their powers of labour might be brought to an advantageous market; and having ſcarcely any choice of employment, unleſs to become either ſhepherds or labourers in huſbandry. Theſe circumſtances, with that of their ſpeaking, for the greater part, a peculiar language, retain them under a virtual *aſcriptio glebæ*, even after the power of Feodiſm has expired. But, the reduction of the extent of poſſeſſions under leaſes; the few improvements made in huſbandry; the increaſing intercourſe between theſe iſles and the main-land; the varied modes of induſtry which begin to be introduced; and the new aſſiduity with which the fiſheries begin to be proſecuted,—promiſe quickly to emancipate the Hebudian peaſantry from every peculiar circumſtance of depreſſion, unfavourable to their exertions or enjoyments. In ſome inſtances, eſtates in theſe iſles appear to be abandoned too entirely to the management of factors: Theſe men ſometimes purſue a policy, hoſtile equally to the true intereſts of their employer, to the tackſmen, and to the peaſantry: Of their conduct towards the two latter, it may, in ſome caſes, be ſaid, with truth, "*Habent viles, ut alienos, ſubjectos, tanquam ſuos.*" Yet, it cannot be ſaid, that the peaſants ſuffer here, by not receiving an adequate price for their labour. Conſidering, how unſkilful and how little productive is that labour, I cannot but think, that the price of labour in general, is, in truth, higher in the Hebudæ, than any where elſe in the northern diviſion of the Britiſh Iſles.

Leaſes.——Leaſes are now generally granted, in writing, to the tenants of lands, in the Hebudæ. Theſe expreſs the term of entrance to the occupancy of the lands, the

period during which they are to be held by the leſſee, the term at which he is to leave them again free to the landlords, the rent to be paid, and the terms for its payment,—the ſtate in which the leſſee is to find, and that in which he is to leave houſes, dykes &c. Seldom is any ſyſtem of huſbandry marked out, or any peculiar modes of cultivation preſcribed in theſe leaſes.

Steel-bow tenants.——Tenants by *ſteel-bow*, the ſame as the *metayers* under the late ariſtocracy of France, ſtill poſſeſs lands on many Hebudian eſtates. Under this ſpecies of tenure, the landlord furniſhes the ſtock, as well as lets the land. The produce i annually ſhared in certain proportions between the landlord and his tenant. Every fact concerning the condition and the management of the *ſteel-bow* tenants in theſe Iſles, concurs to confirm what has been clearly and earneſtly evinced by Mr *Arthur Young*, in his account of the French *metayers*, that this ſort of compact between landlord and tenant, is diſadvantageous alike to both, and precludes all agricultural improvements.

Rents in kind.——Even where the contract between landlord and tenant, is not of this peculiar nature, the *rents* are often paid *in kind*; becauſe the diſtance of markets, and the ſmall quantity of the money circulating in theſe iſles render it difficult or impoſſible for the tenants in general, readily to convert the annual produce of their ſtock and labour, into caſh.

Wages in kind.——The *labourers* alſo receive often the whole or a conſiderable part of their *wages in kind*. A houſe, plowed ground and manure for potatoes and corn, a garden for pot-herbs, paſture for a horſe, cows, or ſheep, with various other things; compoſe, more than money, the wages paid to domeſtic ſervants and other labourers.

Reſtraints on trade.——The reſtraints which lately lay upon the importation of *coals*, were complained of, as peculiarly unfavourable to induſtry and enjoyment, in theſe iſles. Salt for common uſe, and for curing the fiſhes intended for exportation, cannot be procured upon terms ſufficiently reaſonable, and of a quality ſufficiently good.

But,

But, I ſhould think that wherever there are bays, ſalt-water, and a demand for large quantities of ſalt; this uſeful article may be manufactured, if induſtry, enterprizing ingenuity, and a moderate capital be not altogether wanting.

Habits and Manners.——The general *habits* and *manners* of theſe people are far from favourable to the improvement of induſtry. Labour is too little ſubdivided among them. Their exertions are languid and uncertain. They know no engine but ſtrength. They have a ſuperſtitious reverence for old practices, and an undiſcriminating abhorrence of innovation.

XIV. DOMESTIC INDUSTRY AND MECHANIC ARTS.

The ſtate of DOMESTIC INDUSTRY, and of the MECHANIC ARTS is intimately connected, with the ſtate of huſbandry; exerts an influence upon it; and is reciprocally influenced by it. The *women*, in theſe Iſles, when not employed in the fields, are buſied at home, in preparing food for the family; parching the corn and grinding it in the *quern*; dreſſing flax and wool, from the field and the fleece to the web; managing the calves and milk-cows; making butter and cheeſe; removing the ſtraw from before the thraſhers, on the barn-floor; waſhing the family-linens; nurſing the children; and aſſiſting in various taſks, in which the chief part is performed by the men. The *men*, again, when not engaged in the fields, thraſh the corn in the barns; carry the grain to the kiln and the mill; attend the grinding, and bring home the meal; dreſs and feed the horſes lodged in the ſtable; aſſiſt in changing the litter, and clearing away the dung, as well from the *byres* or ſtalls of the cows, as from the ſtables of the horſes; renew from time to time, the thatching upon the houſes; make and mend horſe-furniture; make brogues, and mend their ſhoes. But, in general, the labour of the men during the winter-months, is careleſs and indolent. Of all work within doors, the greater part falls to be performed by the women.

As to the *mechanic arts* here practiſed by artiſans who have been regularly bred to them; theſe are not many. A few ſhoemakers, a few weavers, ſome maſons, wrights, ſmiths, and taylors; are almoſt the only artiſans in theſe iſles, unleſs we ſhould add to them,

them, the millers, who are not many. The advantages of the ſubdiviſion of labour are little known. Population is thinly ſcattered over the country; and artiſans are encouraged to ſettle only in neighbourhoods where many families live near to one another. The members of every family perform ſuch a variety of the neceſſary or accommodating mechanic labours for themſelves, that there is little demand for the work of artiſans, confining themſelves to ſpecial branches of labour.

XV. Fisheries.

The Fisheries, even as at preſent proſecuted, employ a large ſhare of the induſtry of the Hebudians. The inhabitants of Bute, Arran, Harris, Lewis, and of ſome other Iſles, fiſh conſiderable quantities of herrings for exportation. In all the Iſles, the inhabitants procure, by fiſhing, a very large ſhare of their ordinary ſubſiſtence. Fiſhes of an amazing variety of ſpecies; banks, bays, and friths favourable for taking them; with a multitude of other concurring circumſtances—certainly encourage a much more vigorous and extenſive proſecution of the Hebudian fiſheries, than has been yet attempted by the Hebudians themſelves. The fiſhing-boats belonging to all the Iſles, may amount, in number, to ſome hundreds. Almoſt all the younger men are, in ſome degree, fiſhermen and ſailors.

Taking of ſea-fowls.—The *taking of the ſea-fowls* is alſo a part of the hardieſt and moſt adventurous induſtry of theſe people. They expoſe themſelves to extreme danger, in climbing the rocks to rob the neſts. The prey is not inconſiderable, in eggs, or in the carcaſes and feathers of the fowls.

Kelp.—The *making of the kelp* is happily a very profitable labour to theſe good people. Labour, without any very expenſive preparations or inſtruments, is almoſt the only thing neceſſary to manufacture the kelp for the market. It is therefore one of the moſt lucrative to the poſſeſſors, of all the productions of theſe Iſles.

XVI. TRADE.

As to the TRADE of the Hebudians; their internal traffic is conducted by pedlars or chapmen; by petty dealers in ſheep and black-cattle; and by factors or tackſmen purchaſing up ſometimes with unfair advantages, in order for exportation, ſuch articles of ſtock, or manufacture, as the petty tenants and the peaſantry may have to ſell. A few veſſels belonging to the iſlanders, convey their kelp, fiſh, and oil, with ſome other articles ſuitable for exportation, to the trading towns on the weſtern coaſt of Scotland and England, and on the eaſtern coaſt of Ireland. Veſſels are ſent out from theſe towns to import Hebudian productions. The packet-boats ſerve alſo for the carrying on of a commercial intercourſe between theſe iſles and the main-land. Ships frequenting theſe ſeas for the fiſhery, import various articles for the Iſlanders, receiving in return, proviſions and other productions of the iſles. A ſimilar importation and exportation are managed by ſhips paſſing through theſe ſeas, and occaſionally touching at ſome of the Hebudian iſles, in the trade between the weſtern coaſt of Britain, or the eaſtern coaſt of Ireland, and the ſhores of Ruſſia, and Scandinavia. The cattle and ſheep are, for the moſt part, exported directly in paſſage-boats, to the main-land of Scotland; and there is a very conſiderable importation from the ſame quarter, and through the ſame channels. I find it impoſſible, from the materials in my hands, to make any accurate eſtimate of the balance of the Hebudian trade. But, as no great quantity of the articles of luxury is conſumed in theſe iſles, and as moſt articles imported, are obtained at a price comparatively low; I think it highly probable, that the balance might be greatly in favour of the Hebudians,—were it not that a large proportion of the rents of the lands, of the price of labour, and of the produce of the ſtock is, every year, exported in money, by the land-holders purſuing amuſement to London, Edinburgh, and other great towns; by young men ſent to the great towns and other places on the main-land, for their education; and by others, emigrating with their little all, to try the fortune of life, either on the main-land, or perhaps in more diſtant regions.

Markets.——The want of *fairs, markets,* and *market-towns,* is very inconvenient in the internal trade of theſe iſles. The towns are extremely few. Round ſome pariſh-churches, are *clachans,* or petty villages. In the bottoms of ſome bays, may be a hamlet or two, having a few houſes cluſtered together. Through the reſt of the country in theſe iſles, the farm-houſes, and the ſeats of the gentlemen are diſperſed generally at wide diſtances, one from another. Theſe circumſtances have neceſſarily precluded the inſtitution of frequent fairs or markets. What is to be ſold, can rarely find a purchaſer; what may happen to be wanted, is often not to be obtained for its price; the ſubdiviſion of labour is prevented, becauſe theſe people have not ſufficient opportunities for comparing their various wants and abilities; and the circulation of money and commodities remains ſtagnant.

Weights and Meaſures.——The *weights* and *meaſures* uſed in theſe iſles, are various and uncertain, as on the main-land. I believe the moſt prevalent weight to be that denominated *Dutch weight*; but, concerning either the weights or the meaſures, I have not yet obtained ſatisfactory information. One thing certain is, that by diverſity of weights and meaſures, *traffic* is rendered more tardy, complex, and difficult in its operations; while, by ſimplicity and uniformity of weights and meaſures, *its* ſales and exchanges are quickened, and its tranſactions in general, made leſs operoſe.

Price of Labour.—The general *price* of *labour* in theſe iſles, is far from being unreaſonably low. The true price of labour, is, that quantity of the neceſſaries of life which may be purchaſed with its reward. If to the money-wage of a Hebudian labourer, we add thoſe various gratuities which he receives *in kind;* we ſhall then find that theſe all together make a reward at leaſt equal to that of the ſervant or day-labourer in the Lowlands of Scotland. It is, however, true, that, ſince nature here ſupplies ſome of the mere neceſſaries of life in extreme profuſion; and the ſuperfluity cannot be exchanged, with ſufficient readineſs and advantage, for thoſe conveniencies which are enjoyed by the labouring claſs, in the more opulent diſtricts of Britain;

that

that wage may be reckoned to loſe ſomewhat of its value, which is received in things which can neither be uſed, nor very profitably exchanged.

Cuſtom-Houſes.——The paucity of *cuſtom-houſes* on theſe coaſts, has been reckoned to be unfavourable to the trade of the Hebudæ. At preſent, the Hebudians receive ſome foreign goods, free of duties, becauſe there are not always officers to levy the duties. But, it is probable, that, if the trade were better regulated by new cuſtom-houſe eſtabliſhments, the reſtraints thus impoſed, might operate to give it a new impulſe, and to direct it in proper channels. The *poſts* and *packet-boats* are alſo too few, and too irregular in their ſervices, for the commercial demands of theſe iſles.

XVII. Instruction.

The connection between the ſtate of Knowledge and Instruction in a country, and the improvement of all the branches of its induſtry, is greater than appears to be commonly ſuppoſed. For this reaſon, if for no other, it is to be lamented, that the Hebudians are not provided with ſufficient means of inſtruction. Uſing, by far the greater part of them, the Gaelic language, they are cut off from the benefit of all that inſtruction which is continually communicated, in Engliſh only, even to the labouring claſs, through other parts of the kingdom. Their clergy, even with the addition of the miſſionaries of the "Society for propagating Chriſtian knowledge, &c." are few, in proportion to the extent of the territory and the numbers of the people. Their ſchool-maſters are alſo few. Inſtruction for their children can rarely be obtained otherwiſe than with difficulty, and at a dear rate.

SECTION IV.

FARTHER IMPROVEMENTS HUMBLY SUGGESTED.

I SHALL now endeavour to explain thoſe means which ſeem to me, the moſt ſuitable for the improvement of the Hebudian iſles, as ſcenes of agriculture, and ſeats of human ſociety. I begin with laying down three general principles in public œconomy, by the compariſon of which with the peculiar circumſtances of theſe iſles, every hint of improvement that I may propoſe, ſhall be formed.

I. CRITERION OF THE PERFECTION OF GENERAL ŒCONOMY.

IT ſeems to be ſuppoſed by many writers on the different branches of public œconomy, that the perfection of the *enlightened* induſtry and cultivation of a country takes place when it contains the greateſt quantities of fat cattle, of rich, incloſed fields, of ſplendid houſes, of ſtout and handſome horſes, of manufacturing villages, of rich and well dreſſed men and women, faring every day luxurioufly. But, this is merely a vulgar error. *The true perfection of the cultivation of any territory is, when it affords the means of ſubſiſtence, of ſocial intercourſe, of moral and intellectual improvement to the greateſt poſſible number of rational beings, at the ſame time, and thoſe of the higheſt poſſible corporeal and mental excellence.* It may be, that thoſe things which are mentioned above, may co-exiſt with theſe more certain indications of true improvement; but, the latter, never the former, are to be eſteemed the genuine criteria. All ſpeculations on ſubjects of public œconomy, not proceeding upon the recognition of this fundamental principle, are neceſſarily more or leſs erroneous.

II. UTILITY

II. Utility of Information.

No improvement, even in agriculture or the mechanic arts, can be introduced into a country, in any other way, than by fully *informing all thoſe perſons who are to be more or leſs employed in executing the propoſed improvement, of the operations in which it conſiſts, the advantages it beſtows, the reaſons on which it is founded; inculcating this information by every prudent expedient, till it ſhall, at length, have triumphed over former prejudices; and then urging the knowledge thus communicated, into habits of practice.* Innumerable are the attempts at agricultural improvements, which have failed of ſucceſs, becauſe tried without due knowledge of their nature, or of the peculiar circumſtances to which they were applied. How often have the intelligent views of a landlord been defeated by the prejudices of his tenants, which he choſe to attack rather by authority, than by ſlow perſuaſion? Every farmer knows, how eaſily he may be diſappointed in any new trial of any thing relating to huſbandry, by the frowardneſs, the aukwardneſs, or the ignorance of his ſervants.

III. Distribution of Population.

As the moſt improved ſtate of a country, is, that in which it affords the means of ſubſiſtence, of ſocial intercourſe, of moral and intellectual improvement to the greateſt poſſible number of rational beings; ſo it ſhould ſeem, that the firſt expedient for raiſing any country to that degree of uſeful cultivation, is, *to diſperſe the inhabitants in ſuch an order, over its territory; that they may be too widely divided from one another for that ſocial intercourſe which corrupts the principles and feelings, engenders vice, and hides guilt; yet, ſufficiently near to one another for the due intercourſe and excitement of induſtry, trade, intelligence, and benevolence.* In great towns, not only the numbers of mankind, but their induſtry alſo, their intelligence, and virtue are waſted. In rude and thinly inhabited regions, ſuch as the Hebudian Iſles, men's powers lie dormant for want of thoſe impulſes, and that continual inſtruction, which due intercourſe with one another, and with the reſt of the world, would infallibly furniſh In territories, overwhich villages, hamlets, villas, farm-houſes, ſnug cottages, are ſcattered thick;

which are divided, in every direction, by highways, canals, and navigable ſtreams; and which are plentifully furniſhed with boats, carriages, and beaſts of burthen;—the inhabitants appear to enjoy at once the different advantages of a rural and of a town-life, without thoſe diſadvantages, pernicious to induſtry and virtue, which are peculiar either to the one or the other.

THESE are the only general principles in public œconomy not commonly recognized, to which I ſhall have occaſion to refer, in ſuggeſting the following hints for the improvement of the Hebudæ.

I. CHANNELS OF INTELLIGENCE AND INTERCOURSE TO BE MULTIPLIED AND ENLARGED.

LET the national government,—the officers to whom the care of improvements in theſe parts has been particularly delegated,—thoſe bodies which have aſſociated for the diffuſion of knowledge or the advancement of induſtry in the Highlands and Iſlands,—the proprietors of the lands, and of the largeſt moveable capitals in the Hebudæ;——all acting in concert, and with earneſtneſs;——direct their firſt exertions to multiply to the Hebudians the channels of internal intercourſe among themſelves, and of external intercourſe with their neighbours.———The ſtatute-labour is inſufficient for the continual reparation, and the requiſite extenſion of the *roads* and *bridges:* But, the landholders, and even the tenants who have leaſes of any length, ought to make roads, and to erect bridges, at their private expence, through their reſpective eſtates and poſſeſſions, wherever ſuch may be neceſſary, yet cannot be furniſhed by the ſtatute-labour. In the preſent open ſtate of the country, in theſe Iſles, it were vain to erect toll-bars upon the highways: But, both landholders and farmers may be aſſured, that no money whatever, which they can expend upon the ground, will afford a more certain or a larger return, than that which is laid out, with diſcretion, on roads and bridges.

The *ferry-boats* among theſe iſles, are too few, and too uncertain and irregular in their paſſages. *Ferry-boats* ought to be eſtabliſhed, which might be, at all times, ready to convey paſſengers from any iſland, to any other of thoſe next contiguous to it.

it. Small farms might be attached to the ferry-boats, ſo as to afford a reward to the ferry-man which, in the preſent ſtate of theſe iſles, he cannot derive from the dues of the paſſengers. The price of land is ſo low, that a little farm, forming an adequate compenſation to the ferry-man, would be hardly of any accountable coſt, to the landlord by whom it might be granted to him. By promoting the mutual intercourſe of all the Iſlanders, the ferries would, in a very few years, repay abundantly any extraordinary expence with which their firſt eſtabliſhment might be attended. They would ſoon become lucrative properties to the landholders, on whoſe eſtates they ſhould be fixed.

In addition to *highways*, and *ferries*, let the packet-boats, poſt-offices, and poſt-boys intended for the accommodation of theſe Iſles, be induſtriouſly multiplied. Wherever a new poſt-office is eſtabliſhed, the eſtabliſhment is invariably followed within a few years, by a ſenſible increaſe of intelligence and activity among the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. However the dues for letters and packets might be, in ſome inſtances, unequal at firſt, to the expence of poſt-conveyance, they would every where riſe, in no long period, to afford even an addition to the public revenue. Unfortunately, the *Poſt-office* is regarded, in its preſent management, more as a ſource of revenue to the nation, than as a grand machine for enlightening, conſolidating, enlarging ſociety. But, the firſt object in the management of the Poſt-office ought to be, to multiply the channels of correſpondence, in every direction in which they can be multiplied with any probable advantage to the country. It is highly criminal, to divert the revenue ariſing from the Poſt-office, to other purpoſes, before the deduction of all that may be neceſſary for every poſſible improvement of its lines and modes of communication. It may, in the mean time, be earneſtly recommended to the men of property in the Hebudæ, where they deſire the eſtabliſhment of a packet-boat, or a Poſt-office, to give ſecurity, by means of a ſubſcription among themſelves, for making up to the managers of the Poſt-offices, any deficit, by which the dues upon letters and packets, may fall ſhort of the expence of conveyance. The Truſtees for Fiſheries and Improvements, and the Highland Societies—would do well to turn their particular attention to this object.

This

This is, by much, the moſt important of all the means which can be ſuggeſted for the improvement of the Hebudian Iſles. Even alone, it would infallibly introduce all other needful improvements, without farther effort, on the part of the landholders. Without it, every other attempt at the improvement of theſe Iſles, muſt fail of its object.

II. Farms for experiments.

Let every landholder in the Hebudæ, ſet apart one farm of his eſtate, of moderate extent, for the purpoſe of exhibiting upon it, the moſt improved practice of agriculture, and of the management of animal ſtock. Let thoſe who are proprietors of more Iſles than one, appropriate for this end, a farm in each of their Iſles. Every Hebudian Gentleman who reſides on his eſtate, for the whole, or the greater part of the year, ought himſelf to ſuperintend, and to direct the labours of this *farm for experiments*. If he reſide not, or be otherwiſe unqualified; let him employ an honeſt, ſkilful, and diligent farmer who has been bred in thoſe parts where rural œconomy is in its beſt perfection. The returns in produce and profit, from this farm, muſt not be the firſt objects of its cultivation. The grand end muſt be, to exhibit ſuch modes of huſbandry as the landlord wiſhes his tenants to imitate, to make here the firſt trials of new graſſes, new grains, new breeds of black-cattle, new manures, new inſtruments, &c. All the experiments muſt be judiciouſly choſen, and performed with the utmoſt care; otherwiſe their miſcarriage will prejudice thoſe againſt them, whoſe practice they are intended to improve. Although direct profit be not the thing principally in view; yet muſt they be performed with all poſſible frugality, and rendered as highly and as plainly profitable as may be; for theſe, more than any other conſiderations, will recommend them to a general reception. But, the true returns from this *farm for experiments*, will be obtained in the gradual improvement of induſtry, and the gradual increaſe of produce, population, and capital over the proprietor's whole eſtate. He may be aſſured, that it will ſoon turn out, in this way, much more profitable, than any other parts of his lands.

The reaſons upon which this plan of improvement is founded, are, the preſent

want

want of intelligence, and capital among the tenantry, for the introduction of any conſiderable changes in huſbandry; the impoſſibility of improving the huſbandry of a country, merely by reſtrictions or encouragements in leaſes of lands; the certainty that the ignorance and prejudices of the peaſantry can be conquered in no other way, than by inceſſant inſtruction, and long-continued example; the multiplicity of trials, and thoſe often unſucceſsful, which are ever neceſſary to accommodate a practice of agriculture, which has ſucceeded in one diſtrict, to the circumſtances of another; and, above all, the reaſonableneſs of the landholders' taking a part in the productive induſtry of the country, and the poſſibility of their augmenting it by this means, in a degree proportioned to the ſuperiority of their rank.

III. Strangers.

The invitation of ſtrangers, poſſeſſed of ſome capital, induſtrious, and ſkilful in huſbandry, in ſome art, or in the conduct of trade,—to ſettle here, is the next thing I ſhould propoſe for the improvement of the Hebudian Iſles.

Men, commodities, and ready money are largely exported from the Hebudæ. No adequate returns are made. Every family ſend out their youth, as well appointed as circumſtances will permit. Every landholder carries away his rents. Yet all conſpire to exclude ſtrangers from ſettling in thoſe ſeats which all are willing to leave with the firſt fair opportunity. When the progreſs of ſocial improvement begins at length to ſend new ſettlers into theſe Iſles, with ſtock, intelligence, and induſtry which the natives poſſeſs not; hardly can the landlords be perſuaded to accept their moſt tempting offers, and all except the landlords, are up in arms againſt them, as againſt robbers.

But, never will theſe Iſles be improved, without receiving a great influx of ſtrangers. No people have ever been civilized, no country has ever been improved to high cultivation, otherwiſe than upon this condition.—Only, let the landholders invite tenants from the Low-country, upon ſuch terms, that every new comer may bring ſome conſiderable addition to the capital, the induſtry, and the intelligence of theſe Iſles; that if the population be not, at the firſt, augmented by ſuch immigrations, it

may at leaſt, not be diminiſhed; and that the jealouſy of the old inhabitants may thus be excited to ſuch a height only, as to prompt them to emulate the induſtry, and ingenuity of the new coloniſts, never ſo far as to render them deſpondent, or malignantly invidious. But, let them invite rather merchants, than farmers. The native inhabitants may poſſibly be encouraged to improve the lands; but Trade and Manufactures muſt firſt come from a diſtance, to urge their induſtry.

IV.

WHAT I ſhall next propoſe, ſhall be under the two conjoined heads of the SUBDIVISION OF LABOUR, and the *reduction of idleneſs to induſtry*.

The labours of fiſhing, burning of kelp, and peat-caſting interfere, in a very inconvenient manner, with thoſe which belong more immediately to huſbandry. Each of theſe ought to be aſſigned to a diſtinct claſs of labourers; and the ſhepherds and the huſbandmen to be employed ſolely in the cultivation of the ground, and the management of their cattle.

The neceſſary mechanic arts are not every where, in theſe Iſles, practiſed by particular artiſans. The landholders ought to take care, that the inhabitants on their reſpective eſtates be ſupplied with weavers, ſhoemakers, taylors, ſmiths, maſons, and carpenters, to perform all work which is performed in other places, by theſe artiſans. The work belonging to theſe crafts, is at preſent done, for a great part, in the moſt inſufficient and *expenſive* manner, by every family, for themſelves.

It is hardly neceſſary to ſtate, that mills ought to be eſtabliſhed in greater numbers, over theſe Iſles. Nothing can be more evidently waſteful, than the practice of grinding with *querns*. Time and labour are conſumed; grain is waſted; food is prepared in a manner leſs cleanly and leſs wholeſome. Let every landlord multiply the number of the mills on his eſtate, till there be left no neceſſity for grinding grain at any time, with querns. Let the mill be always joined with a ſmall farm; let the landlord be content, at the firſt, with exacting for the mill, merely low intereſt upon the money

laid

laid out in conſtructing it; let the tenants upon his eſtate, contiguous to the mill, be obliged by the terms of their leaſes, to carry their grain to be ground at this mill; but let the rate at which the miller is to be paid, remain to be ſettled between him and his cuſtomers.

Theſe few ſubdiviſions of labour would certainly make it much more productive in the ſeveral branches mentioned. It were eaſy to ſuggeſt many more. But, I wiſh to recommend only ſuch improvements as are obviouſly and readily practicable.

Through all the Hebudæ, there appears to be much leſs uſeful labour performed, than the people are well capable of. But, their indolence can be excited to activity and diligence, only by making it greatly productive to them, and by enlightening them in reſpect to the beſt modes of employing it.

V. Abridgement of labour.

Much may be done for the improvement of the condition of the Hebudians by teaching them to abridge the proceſſes of labour. The grand advantage reſulting from the ſubdiviſion of labour, is indeed an abridgement of its proceſſes, which ſeems, in ſome degree, to enlarge the powers of every individual, above their natural ſtrength. But, beſide that abridgement of labour which is produced by its ſubdiviſion, ſomething may likewiſe be done by direct application to abridge it. All the inſtruments of agriculture uſed in the Hebudæ, except the *caſchrom* and the *caſdireach*, are extremely aukward and inconvenient: they are almoſt all the ſame which were uſed by the Anglo-Saxon inhabitants of South-Britain, about a 1000 years ſince. It might be eaſy to adopt a plough, which, properly yoked, would at leaſt, render the uſe of the *riſtle*, unneceſſary: How much labour might be ſpared, by the uſe of ſuitable utenſils in preparing dry forage? The well-aired barn, the threſhing machine, and the fanners, are all alike unknown here. Even the artiſans of the mechanic arts, are, in all thoſe abridgements which facilitate work, inconceivably behind thoſe in the moderately cultivated diſtricts of the main-land. Here every thing is done only by rude ſtrength and perſeverance. By very obvious abbreviations of the proceſſes of labour, the powers of the Hebudians may be multiplied fourfold.

VI. Inclosures and woods.

The forming of inclofures, and the raiſing of woods, are among the firſt direct and immediate improvements upon the ground, to be recommended to the Hebudians. The only inclofures that can be prudently recommended to them at preſent, are ſtone-dykes. Let the landlords take upon themſelves the expence of building every where ſufficient march-dykes; exacting from their tenants, intereſt for the ſum laid out upon theſe dykes. The care of the interior dykes ought to fall chiefly upon the tenant. The leaſe ſhould expreſs the obligations of both landlord and tenant, with reſpect to theſe dykes. The dykes ſhould always be of ſuch a height and ſtrength, that neither ſheep, goats, nor horſes may be able to overleap or break through them. The interior dykes may occaſionally be double walls of ſtones without mortar. It will be enough that the exterior or march-dykes be built double, with large ſtones, for a foot or two at the foundation of the wall.

There appears to be every where through theſe Iſles, the moſt urgent neceſſity for the plantation of wood. Wood is wanting for fuel, for joiner's work, and for the moſt ordinary purpoſes of huſbandry, and of domeſtic life. Plantations are not leſs wanted to ſhelter the extreme openneſs of the country in all the Iſles. To ſupply theſe wants, let trees of the hardieſt ſpecies,—ſuch as are known to thrive in the moſt expoſed northern and inſular ſituations,—be planted every where within the dykes, in lines of a wider or narrower breadth; they may be fenced from the cattle by a rude paling *wattled* with heath, or by any other means which ſhall be found to anſwer the purpoſe, at the ſmalleſt expence. After the Iſlands ſhall have been once generally ſheltered in this manner, it will be eaſy to multiply and extend the plantations in any quantities, and to intermingle in them, trees of every ſpecies. Let not a few inſtances of failure in the growth of his young woods, diſcourage the planter. If ſucceſsful but in one of many trials, let him mark the circumſtances which produce this ſucceſs; and by endeavouring to command theſe in other caſes, ſtrive to render his ſucceſs more general. It might be well, if inſtead of the perſonal ſervices at preſent exacted from tenants or ſubtenants through theſe Iſles, they were required to raiſe, on a farm,

in

in the progreſs of a leaſe, a certain number of thriving trees. I would even encourage the growth of broom, furze, and under-woods of different kinds, ſooner than leave theſe Iſles in their preſent bleak, unſheltered ſtate. A time will come, when, if wood be wanting for fuel, the diſtreſſes of the poor will be here aſtoniſhingly enhanced. It appears certain that, if the lands were once, for the moſt part, regularly incloſed and ſubdivided by ſtone-walls; plantations might be eaſily reared within theſe walls.

VII. Improved Breeds of Animal-Stock.

There can be little doubt, that great improvements might be made in the kind and the breed of the animal-ſtock on the farms in theſe iſles. Baniſh one half of the ſmall horſes. Into the more level and arable iſles, introduce a larger breed, fit for the draught. Baniſh alſo the goats, from all but the wildeſt and moſt rocky hills. Turn the moſt earneſt attention to the improvement of the preſent breed of ſheep; encourage chiefly thoſe breeds which are diſtinguiſhed by the largeneſs and fineneſs of their fleeces; for in places diſtant from a market, wool, being that article of the produce of a flock, which is the eaſieſt ſuſceptible of carriage without waſte, will be found to be the moſt profitable: Let ſheep be the principal animal-ſtock on all thoſe places which are not too lofty, bare, and bleak, to leave it poſſible for them to ſurvive the Winter, under ſuch expoſure,—or again which are not ſo favourably ſituate, and ſo luxuriantly covered with herbage, as that they may be more profitably ſet apart for paſture-grounds to black-cattle. Of black-cattle, the breed at preſent common in theſe iſles, appears to be excellent; but might, perhaps, be improved by the occaſional importation of larger bulls. The making of cheeſe and butter for exportation, ought be a firſt object with the Hebudian farmers;—theſe articles may be exported to a diſtant market at a ſmaller expence, and with leſs waſte, than any others which are the produce of a herd of black-cattle; even the ewes might, without injury to themſelves or their lambs, yield a few milkings for cheeſe. It is diſgraceful to the Hebudians, that they are not famous for their butter and cheeſe.

VIII. Agricultural Improvements.

The direct agricultural improvements proper to be attempted in the Hebudæ, are obvious. Plow up the moors, wherever there is depth and level fit for being plowed; burn the turfs, ſcattering abroad the aſhes for manure; add lime where the aſhes appear not ſufficient fully to open the new ſoil, and to quicken its powers for vegetation.—In the enſuing Spring, again plow and ſow your field; keep it ever afterwards under crop, either of grain, or of green herbs. Drain the moraſſes; as circumſtances ſuggeſt, either reſerve for meadow, or plow up for bearing corn, the fields which are gained by draining from the lake or the moraſs; ſometimes the drain will afford marle, which may be employed to enrich the new field: Reſerve, if poſſible, ſluices in the remaining lake, or form a dam in the marſh, from which water may be ſeaſonably diffuſed over the adjacent meadows or corn fields, in the thirſtier part of the Summer. Sea-ware appears to be the moſt fertilizing manure, to be found in theſe iſles, or perhaps any where; wherever it can be conveniently obtained, employ it; nay, let careful calculation aſcertain, whether ſea-ware be not more profitably uſed for manure than for kelp; if the reſult ſhall be in favour of manure, let only the overplus, not required for manure, be burnt into kelp. Lime and marle judiciouſly employed, are well-known to be highly fertilizing manures; let them be uſed wherever they may be found, eſpecially in the interior parts of the iſles. Dung may ſtill be employed, either together with lime, or by itſelf; whatever the variety of other manures, dung is never to be neglected.—Of the articles of crop, potatoes appear to be wonderfully well adapted to the ſoil and climate of theſe iſles, equally yielding plenty to the poor, and ſubduing the native barrenneſs of the ground wherever they are cultivated; barley which may be ſown late, and yet ripens early, ſeems to anſwer well to the diſtribution of the Hebudian ſeaſons; I am inclined to think, that Winter being here mild, although comparatively wet, wheat might perhaps be not unſucceſsfully cultivated in thoſe parts of theſe iſles in which the ſoil is deep and rich, and where abundance of ſea-ware is to be obtained; I am afraid that oats are not to be accounted a very ſuitable article of crop for theſe Iſles; they require to be ſown early in Spring, ripen not, till late

late in Autumn. The oats are here generally cut down unripe, are often blaſted by winds, and often rotten by rains. The green crops to be recommended, are turnips, cabbages, beans, peaſe, and the graſſes generally cultivated, clover, rye-graſs, &c.; for dry and green forage, for hard food to horſes, and for an addition of cheap and wholeſome diſhes to the ordinary fare of the inhabitants,—theſe articles of crop will be found very valuable: The ſoil and climate refuſe not to produce them; they will form a proper interchange with the white crops. New ploughs, new harrows, ſtronger working-cattle, a better manner of yoking them, more ſkilful, more active, and more indefatigable ploughmen, are plainly neceſſary to the adequate improvement of the Hebudian agriculture: The gentlemen will do well to invite ploughmen from England, and from the ſouth of Scotland, at whatever wages. Since ſtreams or ſtagnant collections of freſh water, are ſo plentiful through all theſe iſles; it were well if the farmers might be perſuaded to uſe means for drawing from thoſe ſources to quicken the vegetation of their fields and meadows in the dry and torrid months of Summer. To plants, water is partly their chief food, by itſelf; partly the menſtruum in which that food is diſſolved, and preſented as nouriſhment to the plant: Hence is it of the laſt importance in agriculture, that plants be never ſuffered to die of famine, by being deprived of thoſe ſupplies of food which they can receive only in a fluid form.

IX. Leases, &c.

As to tenants and leaſes. Let landlords gradually reſtrain the practice of ſubſetting; let them ſlowly contract the extent, and multiply the number of, their farms; let them give leaſes of conſiderable length, under conditions for the improvement of the lands; the rent riſing progreſſively, as the leaſe advances to its termination: For tenants, let them prefer, *firſt*, men having the largeſt capitals, and being the moſt intelligent and induſtrious huſbandmen; *ſecondly*, thoſe who, without conſiderable property, are remarkable for intelligence and induſtry; *thirdly*, thoſe who have capital, but are leſs diſtinguiſhed for ſkill and induſtry in farming. Let them beware of racking their rents, but require punctual payments at any two yearly terms anſwering to the times when the farmer draws money from the ſales of his crop and black-cattle. Let them commute the perſonal

ſonal ſervices into money-rent; but, in ſome caſes, where exportation to diſtant markets is difficult, it may be proper, thar the landholder take it, for ſome time yet, upon himſelf, and accept his rents, or at leaſt ſome part of his rents, in kind. The reſtrictions as to culture, impoſed in the leaſe, ought to be few, and only ſuch as are abſolutely neceſſary to prevent the deſtruction of the grounds, or are of obvious utility to the farmer himſelf. The fiſhings, and the burning of kelp ought to be every where disjoined from the poſſeſſion of large farms.

X. Trade.

Having ſuch an extent of coaſt, and ſo many articles of raw produce, for exportation, the Hebudæ might be expected to become the ſeats of a flouriſhing trade. The chief cauſes which have hitherto prevented this, are, the continual emigration of their inhabitants,—the want of a ſufficient ſub-diviſion of labour,—the want of a ſurplus of capital, above that which is inveſted in the land and in farm-ſtock.

To promote and improve the trade of theſe Iſles, it may be proper that the landholders encourage the formation of villages, at the bottoms of bays, and in favourable inland ſituations. To ſuch as bring an addition of capital and of trading or manufacturing induſtry to theſe places, let them grant feus and leaſes upon terms the moſt favourable to the feuar, or the leaſſee. But, never let them invite mere beggary and idleneſs to harbour in ſuch ſeats. Let ſtrangers, rather than natives who might withdraw the neceſſary capital from the cultivation of the land, be invited to theſe villages. Let all the new ſettlers build houſes for themſelves, and provide capital for their own traffic. Let the kelp, the fiſhings, the ferries, the retail-trade, the ſervice of the poſt-office, be thrown chiefly into their hands. Encourage them at firſt by privileges and immunities. The ſucceſs of their trade will ſoon enlarge their capitals. Inſtitute markets and fairs for their intercourſe with the farmers. They will ſoon accumulate wealth. New manufactures will be eſtabliſhed. Trade, manufactures, and huſbandry will act reciprocally upon one another. The Hebudæ will aſſume a new rank among the dependencies of the Britiſh empire.

Could new capital, not required for the immediate improvement of the lands, once

be

be attracted into the Hebudæ; the fiſheries would be the channel into which it would firſt diffuſe itſelf. The abundance of fiſhes of all ſpecies, and of fiſhing-banks among theſe Iſles; their vicinity to the northern ſeas, where the cetaceous fiſhes are taken; the ready acceſs to advantageous markets, whether for freſh or for cured fiſhes; and the facility with which ſalt and other things neceſſary for drying and curing fiſhes may be here obtained,—are all together ſuch as to render the Hebudæ fitter for a ſeat of rich and thriving fiſhermen, than perhaps any other cluſter of iſles in the more cultivated parts of the world. All that is wanted to give the neceſſary impulſe, is,—not fantaſtic projects,—but ſimply ſurplus capital above that which is requiſite for the improvement of the lands. Were ſuch capital once fixed in theſe Iſles, it would ſoon find its proper courſe of exertion. The manufacture of ſalt would neceſſarily connect itſelf with the fiſhery. That of oil would be another manufacture which would ariſe upon it. The cooper, the boat-builder, the ſailor would obtain extraordinary encouragement. The kelp would ſhortly come to be manufactured farther into glaſs, and with the addition of the oil, into ſoap. As hemp and flax thrive ſufficiently in theſe iſles, a manufacture of cordage and canvas would come next to be eſtabliſhed. The wool might perhaps be manufactured at the ſame time into coarſe ſtuffs for exportation. All the products and manufactures of theſe iſles would either be conſumed at home, or exported at a ſmall expence for carriage, and to the moſt advantageous markets. Trade would ſo excite internal induſtry, that every field would be cultivated; every hill covered with wood; the flocks and herbs multiplied to many times their preſent number; the inhabitants equally multiplied, enriched, and taught to ſeek eſtabliſhments at home, inſtead of continually emigrating abroad. The improvement of internal induſtry would again re-act no leſs beneficially on the trade of theſe people; and the Hebudæ would be improved to the higheſt perfection of culture, induſtry, intelligence, and population.

The only means which can be readily thought of, for drawing a capital for trade into theſe Iſles, are the following.--Let the landholders make the mercantile advantages which their iſles afford, known through Britain, and through the other ſeats of mercantile induſtry in Europe. Let the truſtees and the Societies who propoſe to themſelves, the improvement of theſe iſles, inſtead of dealing out præmia, and purſuing wild, airy projects,

eſtabliſh

eſtabliſh a fund for lending out to men willing to ſettle as merchants in the Hebudæ, ſuch ſums of money as they may want for their trade, at an intereſt not exceeding three per cent; but never, unleſs upon the moſt undoubted ſecurity. Let the landholders, inſtead of eſtabliſhing their younger ſons and relations as tackſmen, or ſending them abroad too generally, engage them in trade, with the little fortunes allotted them, and after a ſuitable education, in their native iſlands.

XI. Education.

The only other thing I ſhall add under this ſection, ſhall be upon the ſubject of education. There is a neceſſity for the erection of new pariſhes in theſe iſles. Let the churches be rebuilt and maintained in a ſtate of ſufficient reparation. The pariſh-ſchools muſt be multiplied: there ought to be two or three for every pariſh of the preſent extent: the landholders ought to tax themſelves and their tenants at ſo much per cent, on the rents, for the maintenance of ſchoolmaſters. The clergymen who appear to be reſpectable and enlightened, ought not to become tackſmen or farmers, or to wander for months together from their charges; but to be encouraged to employ themſelves in continual and extraordinary diligence for the edification of the people. Few things would contribute equally as theſe, to advance the improvement and enjoyment of ſocial life in theſe iſles.

SECTION

SECTION. V.

ON THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT OF THE HEBUDÆ, AND THE PROGRESSIVE PROSPERITY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

IN ſome parts of Great Britain there is evidently an unnatural and exceſſive accummulation of wealth, population, and labour, in conſequence of which other parts are unduly impoveriſhed, and the whole is maintained in a weaker ſtate, than if it were pervaded by an equal diffuſion and circulation of wealth and other advantages, in proportion as all the different parts are naturally formed to receive and reproduce them.

Such alſo are the peculiar circumſtances of the Britiſh iſles, that, for the purpoſes of national defence, and of the moſt profitable employment of labour, ſome of our moſt neglected territories appear to demand cultivation, in preference, even to thoſe in which, through accidental events, wealth and population have been accummulated to exceſs.

Now, I ſhould apprehend, that the moſt direct and effectual means for advancing the general proſperity of the empire, would be thoſe which ſhould diffuſe in equal circulation, that wealth and population which are now here and there accumulated unequally, and which ſhould cultivate thoſe territories, that, although now uncultivated, promiſe the beſt ſucceſs to cultivation.

In either of theſe caſes, the farther cultivation of the Hebudæ is one of the firſt objects to be regarded in any attempts towards the advancement of the general proſperity of the Britiſh Empire.

Would you ſpread abroad that wealth and thoſe numerous inhabitants that are heaped up, and crowded together in our great towns? The Hebudæ preſent an extent

of territory, and an abundance of all the prime neceſſaries of life, ſuch as ſeem to invite ſettlement and cultivation, more perhaps than any other unimproved diſtricts in the Britiſh Iſles.

Are thoſe modes of life and induſtry which are moſt directly connected with navigation, to be moſt induſtriouſly purſued by the ſubjects of an inſular empire? The Hebudæ, affording a much greater extent of coaſt, than any equal extent of territory belonging to Great Britain, muſt neceſſarily impart the habits of ſea-faring life to an uncommonly large proportion of their inhabitants. To augment this effect, the coaſt, thus extenſive in proportion to the territory, is at the ſame time ſingularly rich, even in proportion to its extent. It is therefore reaſonable to believe, that, if the Hebudæ were fully peopled, they would afford a noble addition to the naval force of the nation.

In the preſent low ſtate of the ſcience of public œconomy, it is indeed true, that, in many caſes, the utmoſt that Governments can do for the encouragement of Agriculture, and trade, is, to abſtain from directly depreſſing and injuring them. Yet, for the reaſons above ſtated, I ſhould hope, that the preſent Government of Great Britain, in their attention to the advancement of the national proſperity, may be induced to direct the conveyances of the Poſt-office through the Hebudæ, to be extended and multiplied,—to take meaſures for the eſtabliſhment of a greater number of regular ferries, perhaps to grant national aid for the improvement and extenſion of the highways,—to remove any troubleſome impoſts of which the Hebudians may juſtly complain, and to fix additional cuſtom-houſes where theſe may be neceſſary to indicate the proper ſtaples for trade, and light-houſes wherever theſe are requiſite, to prevent accidents in the navigation of the Hebudian Streights.

On the other hand, the Hebudians may be encouraged by the aſſurance, that, unleſs ſome ſudden and fatal events overwhelm the proſperity of the Britiſh Empire, civilization, opulence, and enlightened induſtry muſt, at no diſtant period, find their way into theſe Iſles. Wealth, knowledge, and induſtry, like water, tend ever to a level. They are with difficulty, accumulated in any one place. No obſtructions will long maintain them in a ſtate of partial accumulation. The wealth and induſtry of England have found their way into Scotland. They are not ſtationary about the great towns, or in the

more

more cultivated diſtricts of Scotland. We ſee them diffuſe themſelves into all quarters, north, eaſt, and weſt. They have already begun to croſs over into theſe Iſles; as the flouriſhing and populous ſtate of Bute well atteſts. Their progreſs will not be ſtayed. As the proſperity of the other parts of the Britiſh Empire ſhall advance, it muſt neceſſarily communicate itſelf to theſe Iſles. Since the grand engine for improving the powers, the exertions, and the enjoyments of men, ever is *information conveyed without the uſe of force to impreſs it againſt conviction*; *without any unfair addreſs to the paſſions, which might win a prejudiced and undiſcerning aſſent*; *without the uſe of ſuch abſtract terms as might render it ambiguous or intelligible*: It may therefore be expected, that the information collected and circulated in the Statiſtical Account of Scotland,—— and accumulated with ſuch rapidity and ſucceſs by the Board of Agriculture, will contribute in the moſt eminent degree to the improvement of the Hebudæ, and of all the Britiſh Iſles.

F I N I S.